

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHARDAY M. BROWN, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Sharday M. Brown, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Sharday is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. This organization also contributed matching funds worth \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Sharday M. Brown for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING IAN LEWIS HENDERSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian Lewis Henderson of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Ian will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Ian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Ian has been involved with scouting, he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian Lewis Henderson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Henderson in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING BILL STRAUB AND DEBRA MEADE

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bill Straub and Debra Meade for their many years of hard work and support toward the game of shooting, throughout the entire State of Pennsylvania.

Bill and Debra have dedicated themselves to the game of shooting by holding several positions at the Pennsylvania Skeet Shooting Association (PSSA). Over the years, both Debra and Bill have occupied various offices at the PSSA, including Director, President, and Vice President. Currently, Bill is the Shoot Manager of the PA State Skeet Championships and Debbie holds the office of Secretary/Treasurer at the PSSA.

The pair has also been very active in the National Skeet Shooting Association, both serving as Directors. Bill and Debra have left their mark on the sport in their own right. Bill has been named to the All American Skeet and PA State Skeet Teams, as well as earning an induction into the PA Skeet Shooting Association's Hall of Fame. Debra, who has shot nearly 100,000 skeet targets, has garnered numerous accolades and Lady Championship Victories throughout her career.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Bill and Debra. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such dedicated citizens as Bill Straub and Debra Meade.

CONGRATULATING THE ORANGE LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM ON THEIR TRIP TO THE 2005 LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and my sincere congratulations that I rise today to join the community of Orange, Connecticut to celebrate the achievements of the Orange Little League All-Star Softball Team. The team and their coaches recently returned from Portland, Oregon where they went to the Championship game in the 2005 Little League Softball World Series. Though

they did not win their final game, they represented Orange and the State of Connecticut well and I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to them for this wonderful effort!

The Orange All-Star Softball Team, made up of eleven- and twelve-year-old girls, were undefeated and won the State Championship for the opportunity to play in the World Series. Throughout their regular season, the girls not only defeated every challenger they faced, but, more importantly, they learned one of life's most valuable lessons—teamwork. Softball, like all sports, teaches us the value of teamwork, practice, camaraderie, and commitment to excellence. These skills will serve these young people well as they begin to make a difference in the world. Working together, they have already accomplished so much. I have no doubt that each of these young women will enjoy great success in all of their future endeavors.

At only eleven and twelve years old, each of these girls has demonstrated remarkable talent and a unique passion for the game. However, it has been under the guidance of their coaches that their skills have been developed and sharpened. It is with great pleasure that I also recognize Ken Slowik and the entire coaching staff—all of whom have worked hard to give these young people the chance to play! Without their efforts, the success of the Orange All-Stars would not be possible.

It was wonderful to see the Orange community come together in support of these young women and today's parade is yet another example of the excitement and enthusiasm that this community and its residents have shown the Orange Little League All-Star Softball Team. I am honored to stand with them today in extending my sincere congratulations to you for your outstanding team work and on your first-rate season. Win or lose, you have made us all proud!

TRIBUTE TO SPEAKIN' OUT WEEKLY NEWS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Speakin' Out Weekly News on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Speakin' Out is published in my Congressional District and has become the longest running African-American owned newspaper in North Alabama and the Tennessee Valley.

Mr. Speaker, the story behind Speakin' Out is an inspiration to entrepreneurs in Alabama and across the country. In 1980, my friend William Smothers published the first issue of Speakin' Out. It was published on his kitchen table in the City of Decatur with a meager budget of \$800.

Speakin' Out quickly grew from its humble beginnings. It soon moved out of the kitchen

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and into its first office located on the corner of Lee and Bank Street in Decatur, changing its format from a magazine to a tabloid newspaper.

In 1983, *Speakin' Out News* merged with *The Weekly News*, published by Professor L.C. Jamar, Sr., and changed the company name to *Speakin' Out Weekly News*. Following the merger, *Speakin' Out Weekly News* relocated its office to Huntsville, Ala. The format was again changed from a tabloid to a broad sheet newspaper and remains so today.

From its inception, *Speakin' Out* covered politics, the arts, business, and health issues. The editorial content was geared toward the African American community. Its unique opinions and balanced reporting has helped attract a large subscriber base. In fact, the newspaper currently boasts a weekly readership in excess of 80,000.

Furthermore, *Speakin' Out* has established itself as a community partner in North Alabama. It hosts and sponsors numerous events each year. *Speakin' Out* has also established the North Alabama Journalism Center, its non-profit entity, serving as an educational and professional haven for students with an interest in communications. The center collaborates with surrounding colleges and universities to provide a venue for students to gain practical instruction. The center also offers an after school tutorial program, *Starting Smarter*, for students K-12.

Mr. Speaker, *Speakin' Out Weekly News* has given a voice to African-Americans in my community and has established itself as a reliable source of community events, news, and opinions. I appreciate the publication's impartial reporting, the hard work of its reporters, and its strong commitment to our community.

Mr. Speaker, over the weekend of August 13th and 14th, *Speakin' Out* held a community wide celebration in honor of its silver anniversary. I rise today to join them in their celebration and to congratulate them on this exciting milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES
BRAZELTON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of my friend Jim Brazelton, who recently retired from his position as Stanislaus County District Attorney.

Jim began his career as a military policeman assigned to the White House Security Detail. In 1963, he joined the City of Bakersfield Police Department where he served as a patrolman, motorcycle officer and detective. Five years later, Jim accepted a position with the City of Orange's police department where he worked his way through the ranks of patrolman, detective, watch commander, SWAT Commander and Sergeant. During his time there, he attended Western State University's College of Law in Anaheim, California. Upon graduating in 1974, Jim left the department and practiced law for the next 11 years.

In 1985, Jim came to the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office where he served in

the felony trial division. As Senior Deputy District Attorney, he was responsible for the prosecution of many high-profile homicide cases. In January of 1993, Jim was named Chief Deputy District Attorney for the Felony Superior Court Division. In August of 1995, he was named Chief Deputy District Attorney of Administration.

In March 1996, Jim was appointed by the Stanislaus County Supervisors to fill the unexpired term of the retiring District Attorney. District Attorney Brazelton ran unopposed in the 1998 and 2002 elections.

In addition to his duties as District Attorney, Jim is a member of the local Police Officer's Association, where he has served both on the board and as president, as well as the Stanislaus County Association of Law Enforcement Executives where he served as president in 2000. In 2001, he was appointed by State Attorney General Bill Lockyer to serve on his Blue Ribbon SWAT Team Practices Commission. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the California District Attorneys Association, was on their Capital Litigation Committee for several years, and often lectures at their conferences.

For the past several years, Jim has been an active and valued member of several worthwhile community organizations. He was an Executive Board member of Fight Crime-Invest in Kids and is on the board of the Carol Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation.

District Attorney James Brazelton has been dedicated to public safety and service for more than 40 years. For the past 20 years, he has vigorously and effectively sought to protect the citizens of Stanislaus County and to ensure justice for the victims of crime. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking Mr. Brazelton for his dedicated service to the public and wish him the very best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TALIAH C.
LAWSON, RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOL-
ARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Taliah C. Lawson, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Taliah is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. This organization also contributed matching funds worth \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Taliah C. Lawson for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING HELEN AND HARRY
DANKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding constituents of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District: Helen and Harry Danks of Grundy County, Missouri. Helen and Harry will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 23, 2005.

Helen and Harry Danks were married on December 23, 1945 in Memphis, Tennessee. At the time, Harry was serving our country at Millington Naval Air Station in Millington, Tennessee and Helen was working at the Oak Ridge Bomb Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Incidentally, Helen worked at Oak Ridge Bomb Plant at the same time that Fat Man and Little Boy were made.

Helen and Harry Danks have been outstanding citizens of Grundy County and Northwest Missouri. They have operated the family farm for over 50 years, and are dedicated and active members of their church and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Helen and Harry Danks. Their marriage of 60 years is inspirational, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING STEPFAMILY
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA) and recognize their efforts as they celebrate their annual Stepfamily Day on September 16, 2005.

Over the past nine years the SAA, our Nation's largest stepfamily organization, has worked diligently to provide outreach to stepfamilies and to those who work with them. The SAA offers information, education, and support to stepfamilies across the country to ensure that they have the proper tools to build and maintain strong families.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the SAA and to acknowledge the annual Stepfamily Day. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an organization like the Stepfamily Association of America.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT OF PROSPECT AS
THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Chief Robert Chatfield and all of the members of the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, past and present, as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary. This is a milestone for this wonderful organization and I am proud to have this opportunity to honor their outstanding work on behalf of the Prospect community.

The men and women who serve as firefighters face risks that few of us can comprehend. Each day, they must be ready to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations as we have all witnessed in recent days. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Our firefighters provide us with that peace of mind. Their commitment and dedication cannot be questioned and our thanks can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Since its incorporation in September of 1945, the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect has grown from a small building with just two bays to a multi-million dollar state-of-the-art facility which houses 10 bays. The Department serves a community of over 9,000, responding to an estimated 270 fire calls and nearly 600 medical calls annually. Though it is fully dependent on volunteers, there is never a shortage of responders to a call. Though much has changed in the six decades since its inception, the one thing that has not is the reliability and consistency of those who volunteer to serve.

I have always held a deep admiration for those who serve as firefighters—each day facing new challenges and seemingly overwhelming responsibility. It takes an exceptional combination of bravery, compassion, and generosity to serve as a volunteer firefighter. In its 60 years of history, nearly 800 individuals have served in the Department. Every member of the Prospect Volunteer Department has demonstrated a unique commitment and dedication to public service throughout their careers. From the training they must receive to the responsibility of responding to emergencies to the generous fundraising efforts for the Department, they have willingly devoted themselves to their community.

Too often we take for granted the courageous work of our country's firefighters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those Prospect residents who have volunteered their time and efforts to the Department. I am proud to recognize and commend the commitment the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect has made to protect Prospect for 60 years. To reach such an anniversary is a testament to the generosity and civic mindedness of the resident volunteers and the Town of Prospect. My sincere congratulations to you on this very special occasion!

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE
NELSON R. STARKEY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alabama State Representative Nelson R. Starkey. Representative Starkey has represented the City of Florence in the Alabama State Legislature since 1978. He plans to retire from public service at the conclusion of his current legislative term in 2006.

I consider it a privilege to have worked with Representative Starkey on a wide variety of issues facing Northwest Alabama. He has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community. He is most well known for his strong advocacy for increased Alabama school funding.

During his many years of service in the State House, Representative Starkey was elected by his peers to numerous legislative leadership positions. For eight years, he was the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and the Joint Highway Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Local Government Committee for four years and Chairman of the State Administration Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Starkey is well respected throughout our local community and the entire State of Alabama. In 1993, he was chosen by the Montgomery Advertiser to receive the Meritorious Public Service Award. This honor was based on his reputation for integrity, effectiveness, vision, trustworthiness, commitment and diligence.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday August 23rd, the North Alabama community gathered to honor and celebrate all of Representative Starkey's achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to thank Representative Starkey for his many years of dedicated service.

STATEMENT ON MARIA C. RAMOS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria C. Ramos. Ms. Ramos has dedicated her life to educating others and serving her community and country. Maria is retiring after dedicating the past 30 years to serving her community. Maria's efforts to better her community and country will be sorely missed.

Born in Mexico, Ms. Ramos moved to Oakland when she was 14 years old. Since then, she has selflessly devoted much of her life to giving back to the place that has afforded her such an opportunity to succeed.

Maria has, for more than 30 years, worked tirelessly as an educator to ensure that those children would have the same opportunities to succeed as she had. She started working at St. Gertrude's School in 1974, where she served as a bilingual assistant and has since gone on to serve at Marshall Junior High and many other schools in the Stockton Unified School District.

In addition to her longstanding commitment to education, Maria is involved in countless social and political organizations. She serves

on numerous boards, including the California State Employees Association, the Democratic Central Committee, the Californians for Justice Committee, the 17th Assembly District Committee, and Comerciantes Unidas, to name just a few.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to call Maria Ramos a friend and to have the opportunity to recognize her longstanding commitment to education and service to her community.

Though her selfless devotion will be missed by all of us in the community, I'm sure her family looks forward to spending more time with her and she certainly deserves some time off.

I am delighted to recognize her service and retirement after 30 years as I wish my very best in the many years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIFFANY
A. MCBATH, RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOL-
ARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Tiffany A. McBath, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Tiffany is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. This organization also contributed matching funds worth \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Tiffany A. McBath for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING ALEX Q.
NEWMASER FOR ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Q. Newmaster, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Q. Newmaster for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAFAYETTE
LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of the Lafayette Little League team. This group of young men embarked on a journey at the beginning of this summer that took them over 2,000 miles and ended at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

This team won the Louisiana State championship in August. They then won the Southwest Regional title in Waco, Texas. And then they inspired millions of Americans with two heart-stopping come-from-behind wins en route to the semifinals of the U.S. bracket of the Little League World Series.

Their success on the field earned these "Comeback Cajuns" a finish in this country's top four and the world's top eight teams. When they were eliminated from competition by Ewa Beach, Hawaii—which eventually claimed the world championship—the squad was one of only five teams still alive out of over 70,000 that began Little League postseason play.

These twelve young men exemplify the ideals of Little League Baseball—character, courage, and loyalty. I honor them today for their superb play on the field and their magnificent sportsmanship.

Andrew Stevenson, Connor Toups, Andreas Duplantis, Sam Scofield, Patrick Foreman, Ryan Bergeron, Jace Conrad, Brenn Conrad, Tyler Douglas, Jordan Romero, Alex Stringer, and Alex Miller.

And their coaches, Mike Conrad, Mark Toups, and Ken Douglas.

I am proud of the way they represented our State, our hometown, and themselves.

THE PASSING OF ERIKA HILLS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal sorrow that I come to the floor of the House to remember my friend Erika Hills, who died tragically in an automobile accident in Napa Valley on August 17th. Today, her family and friends are gathering in Grace Cathedral in San Francisco to mourn her passing. I extend my deepest sympathy to her husband Austin, her sons Austin and Justin, her father Dr. Max Brunar, and her siblings Dieter Mascen and Eva Pongraz of Graz, Austria.

Her death leaves a void in our lives but her bright light will remain in our hearts forever.

A home design expert, she had owned an antique shop in St. Helena, California. Her husband Austin Hills is a founder and partner in Napa Valley's Grgich Hills Cellar in Rutherford, California, and a descendent of the Hills Bros. Coffee family.

Erika's exuberance was contagious and elevated all the causes she championed. She and her husband were active supporters of the arts; the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Opera and the Museum of Modern Art. She was generous with her time and her resources and dedicated herself to helping people less fortunate than she.

Erika served on numerous boards and volunteered in many charitable organizations. Her support extended from the cultural life of the San Francisco Bay Area to Roots of Peace, an international humanitarian organization that works to eradicate land mines, returning the land to agricultural use.

Most recently she served on the advisory council of the Land Trust of Napa County, Cal Performances in Berkeley, and the Seven Tepees Youth Program that helps underprivileged children with their education. She and her husband were founding members of the Copia center for wine and food in Napa.

Erika will be missed by all of us fortunate enough to have been touched by her life. Her joy, her generosity, as well as her concern for children around the world, will long be remembered by all who knew her.

I know I speak for all my constituents when I extend condolences to Austin, Austin Jr. and Justin for their heartbreaking loss. My thoughts and prayers and those of my husband Paul and the entire Pelosi family are with her loved ones at this sad time.

JEWISH COMMUNITY SUPPORT
FOR ISRAEL'S DISENGAGEMENT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, just before we adjourned, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston issued a very thoughtful statement in support of the disengagement by Israel from the Gaza Strip, and the dismantling by the Israeli government of Israeli settlements in that area.

Mr. Speaker, this was a very wrenching process for many in Israel, and the willingness of the government of Israel—supported by a majority of the people of Israel—to engage in this withdrawal with all of its difficult emotional strains speaks highly of that country's willingness to take steps for peace. The withdrawal from Gaza should not be the last action taken in this process, but it is unreasonable to expect that they will be able to take further actions in the absence of a showing by the Palestinian Authority of its willingness and ability to respond in kind to this disengagement.

The statement of the JCRC is a first-rate statement of what should be done going forward, and it is an appropriate expression of support of a majority of the Jewish Community of Greater Boston for a peace process that is thoughtful, balanced and prudent. I ask that this important statement be printed here.

JEWISH COMMUNITY EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR
ISRAEL'S DISENGAGEMENT PLAN

July 19, 2005.

Nancy K. Kaufman, Executive Director and Susan A. Calechman, President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston issued the following statement today regarding Israel's plans to disengage from the Gaza Strip and communities in northern Samaria.

"The JCRC fully supports Prime Minister Sharon and the government of Israel as they begin implementation of the Gaza disengagement plan. Israel's vigorous democracy is taking bold and courageous risks in an effort to protect her security and to renew the process of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We also support the Israeli government's effort to resolve the conflict through a negotiated two-state solution as expressed in the Road Map. Final borders and other final status issues must be left to the parties themselves to negotiate in a peace process free from violence and the threat of violence.

Disengagement will only lead to a peaceful outcome if there is a commitment on the part of the Palestinian leadership to put an end to terrorism. We call upon the Palestinian Authority (PA) to disarm the terrorist groups and their infrastructure. This includes removal of existing stockpiles of weapons and preventing such stockpiles from being rebuilt; preventing the smuggling of weapons; closing of clandestine weapons manufacturing and preventing attacks, especially during the engagement process. The future of peace, and the stability of the PA itself, is fully dependent on it taking this action.

We recognize the profound sacrifices being made by the families who are being relocated, some after living in their homes for nearly 30 years. The loss of their homes, synagogues, farms, businesses and schools is an immense sacrifice which should be recognized with efforts made to bridge any gaps that develop among Israelis as a result of this effort.

We condemn the rhetoric of a tiny extremist fringe that promotes violence as a response to policies undertaken by the democratically elected Israeli government. At the same time, the rights of free speech and lawful dissent which are basic and indispensable in a democratic society must be protected. It is critically important that those with differing views of the peace process condemn explicit hate speech, venomous language, and threatening words. It is also important that discussion among all the conflicting viewpoints be created to promote an atmosphere in which differences can be expressed with civility and respect.

We call the U.S. Government to continue its work with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to ensure that all commitments are met and that a resolution to this conflict leads to a secure peace for both sides.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SPC. ALVIN
K. BEAN UPON HIS RECEIPT OF
THE ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary community service of Alvin K. Bean, a resident of Chautauqua County, Town of Panama, upon receiving the Army Commendation Medal with valor device

for a January 6 rescue mission as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The award was given on March 15, 2005. Spc. Bean was honored for his gallant actions during the rescue mission of an M2 Bradley that had received a devastating hit by an explosive device. The United States Army praised Bean saying he showed no regard for his own safety and placed the recovery of the M2 Bradley fighting vehicle before himself.

Mr. Bean has donated countless hours towards improving his community. He is hard working and dedicated. His leadership and generosity sets an example for us all. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I honor him today.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ASHLEY K. THARAYIL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Ashley K. Tharayil, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Ashley is currently a junior at North Hills School and the organization matching her \$500 in Federal funds is the North Hills School—Volunteers in Partnership.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Ashley K. Tharayil for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ROBERT MOHR FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Robert Mohr, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Project, John designed and built a wheeled oak cabinet for storing toys and a matching oak table custom built for small children for the daycare center at his local church, Saint James Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Robert Mohr for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING LAWRENCE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC), on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the corporation.

Over the past 50 years the LCEDC has worked diligently to promote business growth and help foster ideal climates for commerce development. The corporation has also worked tirelessly with local business leaders and government officials throughout the community, to create jobs for the citizens of the greater Lawrence county region. I recognize the LCEDC for all of their hard work and dedication to cultivating small businesses which serve as the backbone of the American economy.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the LCEDC. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my support for this critical funding to address the enormous needs that exist along the Gulf Coast following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. I also want to express my heartfelt condolences to the victims, both living and dead, of this storm. While this country has encountered many natural disasters, few in memory have produced the scenes of destruction and human need that we are seeing daily from the region. This \$10 billion we are approving today is what I expect to be a very small portion of the actual cost of the rescue and evacuation efforts in

New Orleans and the gulf area, and is a first step in a process that could take years to complete. I commend Speaker HASTERT and Leader PELOSI for acting quickly to pass this legislation.

As we always do, the people of the United States are rallying to support their fellow citizens during this time of crisis. I want to thank all of the volunteers that are heading to the region and all of the people around the country that have reached into their pocketbooks or in some other way are sending aid. This help is essential and greatly appreciated.

While there are questions being asked about why it has taken so long to get food and water to those who are stranded, now is not the time to point fingers or assign blame. There will be plenty of time to assess the government's response after the rescue and evacuation process has been completed. Let's get the job done and then make the necessary assessment.

Another painful effect of the storm is the steep rise in gasoline prices. Increased prices are hammering working families with little to no relief in sight. The Federal Government can do very little other than releasing the oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and prosecuting price gouging. It comes down to supply and demand. Demand remains high and the supply has been significantly reduced by Hurricane Katrina. We must continue to work diligently to repair the oil platforms and refineries that have been damaged, and Congress will—with the state attorneys general—keep a close eye on any potential price gouging.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the leadership of the House for considering this legislation during this special session today. I know that we will continue to work on a bipartisan basis to fully address the needs of the communities that have been so horribly afflicted by Hurricane Katrina.

UNITED STATES TRADE RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address some of the comments made during the colloquy between the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGLISH, and the gentlemen from Utah, Mr. BISHOP, regarding H.R. 3283. In particular, I would like to respond to my colleagues' assertions concerning the application of section 3(b)(2) of the Act, which states that when applying the U.S. countervailing duty law to nonmarket economies, the Department of Commerce "shall ensure that . . . the application [of the law] is consistent with the international obligations of the United States." Mr. Speaker, despite my colleagues' efforts to provide reassurance about this provision, I remain deeply concerned following their exchange—and in some ways, even more so.

First, the exchange between Mr. BISHOP and Mr. ENGLISH provides no comfort to those like me that have raised concerns that section 3(b)(2) of the Act will have a chilling effect on the application of U.S. countervailing duty law. The provision clearly creates a special burden on the U.S. Department of Commerce in

cases involving subsidies in nonmarket economy countries like China by requiring Commerce to make a determination about the WTO consistency of the law prior to applying it.

In every other trade remedy case, the Department of Commerce must apply U.S. law as enacted by Congress. The law is presumed to be consistent with WTO obligations unless the WTO finds otherwise.

Under Mr. ENGLISH's bill, Commerce could not apply countervailing duty laws to China and other nonmarket economies to the fullest extent authorized by Congress, but rather could apply the law only to the extent to which Commerce makes a separate determination that the law would pass muster in the WTO. As a result, it is likely that Commerce would not apply the law as intended by Congress, thereby denying American workers and businesses a remedy authorized by both WTO rules and U.S. law.

Second, and even more importantly, section 3(b)(2) of the English bill raises Constitutional issues. After the provision has been applied in a CVD investigation and were a WTO panel to rule against some aspect of the provision, the English bill would create the first directive under U.S. law that WTO decisions are to be self-implementing.

The English bill creates this self-implementing provision by directing Commerce to "ensure that the application [of the provision] is consistent" with WTO rules. In all other cases under U.S. AD/CVD law, the Uruguay Round Agreements Act of 1994 (section 129) creates a procedure for congressional consultation prior to Commerce or USTR taking any action to alter U.S. law, regulation or practice. While Congress technically would not have to approve a change to regulation or practice, in practice, neither the Clinton nor Bush administrations has ever even suggested that it would make such a change absent (bicameral and bipartisan) congressional approval.

The inclusion language in the English bill authorizing, if not directing, Commerce to change regulation or practice even absent Congressional approval undermines the broader statutory scheme carefully established in 1994, shifts the balance of action for implementing WTO decisions that affect one provision of the AD/CVD laws toward the Administration, and erodes further congressional authority over the unfair trade laws.

In simple terms, section 3(b)(2) of the English bill authorizes Commerce to take action to align U.S. law with the decisions of a WTO panel or Appellate Body—without the assent of Congress as provided under existing U.S. law (in the case of Commerce, changes to regulation or practice).

Mr. Speaker, section 3(b)(2) of H.R. 3283 is bad policy and may be unconstitutional as a matter of law. By requiring the Department of Commerce to ensure WTO compliance before acting on Chinese subsidies, the bill would prevent the Administration from vigorously enforcing our trade laws. In addition, the provision violates traditional notions of separation of powers by specifically directing the Department of Commerce to take steps to alter the application of U.S. law without an act of Congress.

JAKE STOWERS' DEDICATION TO PINELLAS COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Pinellas County, Florida, which I have the privilege to represent, is Florida's most densely populated county. You would not know it though because our county commissioners have done an outstanding job over the years in preserving park lands and greenways for our residents and visitors to enjoy Florida's natural beauty.

At the point of that effort has been Pinellas County's Assistant Administrator Jake Stowers, who has poured his life and soul for more than 30 years into giving our urban community an abundance of green spaces and outdoor recreational opportunities. As Jake said in a recent interview by the publication Bay Soundings, "I can have you in the woods in 15 minutes." And he's right.

The National Association of Counties and the Trust for Public Land recognized Pinellas County's efforts this spring by presenting it with the prestigious County Leadership in Conservation award at a national convention in our Nation's Capital.

Following my remarks, I would like to include for my colleagues a profile of Jake Stowers from the spring 2005 edition of Bay Soundings. It includes information about Pinellas County's unique commitment, under Jake's leadership, to preserving our county's environment. The county is home to a 47-mile urban trail called the Pinellas Trail, 4,200 acres of parkland, 14,000 acres of preserves including the recently completed 8,000-acre Booker Creek Preserve, and Fort DeSoto Park, which this year was ranked as our nation's most beautiful beach. Along with the members of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Jake has had a hand in every one of those projects.

Mr. Speaker, Jake Stowers is a case study of what love and passion for your job will yield, in this case for the greater good of an entire community. It has been a real pleasure to work with Jake on a number of projects over the years and I know the people of Pinellas County will greatly miss him when he retires next year. However, the legacy of his lifelong work will live on for generations of future Pinellas County residents and visitors.

[Bay Soundings, Spring 2005]

JAKE STOWERS: DESIGNING WITH NATURE

(By Mary Kelley Hoppe)

Jake Stowers has a passion for livable communities, places you can work and call home and still be able to get away from it all without leaving town.

He found his patch of paradise in Pinellas County, where he was born and raised near Safety Harbor. Home today is along an intercoastal waterway in Largo, where he lives with his wife, Jo, and two sons.

Just as a wellspring of environmental consciousness in the 1970s was sparking a wave of landmark federal clean water and air legislation, Stowers began his career with Pinellas County as an urban forester. His initial plans to study law were scrubbed after a wildlife biologist at the University of Florida fueled his appetite for field work. After

graduating with a degree in forestry, he went on to receive a masters degree in agriculture with a forestry focus.

On a summer internship with the Department of the Interior in Gainesville, Stowers studied ways to keep hungry migratory blackbirds out of crop farms. Following a short stint as Ft. Lauderdale's first urban forester, he headed back home to Pinellas County and a job that allowed him to pursue what has become a life-long passion, infusing a growth-hungry county with green spaces and corridors for wildlife and folks seeking escape from the urban jungle.

"I can have you in woods in 15 minutes," boasts Stowers, an avid angler and hunter whose dad taught him to flyfish. Indeed, Florida's most densely packed county harbors a remarkably rich number of natural getaways accessible within a quick drive. Along with a 47-mile urban trail that runs north and south, Pinellas County has 4,200 acres of parkland and 14,000 acres of preserves including the more than 8,000-acre Booker Creek Preserve completed last year. Fort DeSoto Park at the county's southernmost tip is the top ranked beach in the continental U.S.

When Stowers retires next year as assistant county administrator, he'll leave an indelible mark as a catalyst and champion for environmental stewardship and balanced growth. While quick to credit county commissioners and residents who have repeatedly supported conservation efforts at the ballot box, he's lauded as the go-to person who has helped steer, nudge and implement numerous environmental initiatives and policies.

For the past 30-plus years, he has worked behind the scenes to facilitate conservation land purchases, establish an environmental trust fund that's leveraged millions of federal dollars, and craft smart growth policies—at the bidding of and, simultaneously influencing, the county commissioners he serves.

"Jake is such an incredible asset," says County Commissioner Susan Latvala, who recently returned from Washington, D.C. where Pinellas County's environmental initiatives were recognized with a prestigious award for County Leadership in Conservation from the Trust for Public Land and the National Association of Counties (NACo). "His knowledge, love and passion for the environment are contagious," she adds.

Almost everyone can recall a favorite book that had a major impact on their lives. For Stowers, it was "Design with Nature" by Ian McHarg, hailed as one of America's most influential landscape architects. McHarg's book, published in 1969, placed landscape architects at the center of an emerging environmental movement. Long before words like watersheds and impervious surface became important in planning cities and buildings, it was the first to discuss what we now call sprawl and advocate a means for sustainable urban development. The message was this, says Stowers: "Let the natural systems guide you in designing where to build on a property." McHarg's ideas made a lasting impression.

As an urban forester starting in 1974, Stowers worked to strengthen local ordinances that spelled out how sites should be developed. Once the county determined the land use, "our job was figuring out 'how do I build it in the best way,'" he said. "We'd literally go out and walk the woods, putting stakes in the ground," trying to steer builders clear of the wetland fringe. "Early on it was very contentious, but developers came to see it as part and parcel of developing wisely."

A county charette completed just before Stowers came on board earmarked environmentally sensitive lands for preservation.

The seminal document became a roadmap for county commissioners in the decades to come. Their commitment coupled with behind-the-scenes work by Stowers and others paid off. To date, all but one of the 162 properties flagged in the charette have been purchased, notes Latvala.

Stowers rose to become assistant director of a fledgling environmental management department guiding it through a period of significant growth. "I kind of inherited Jake," said former director Steve Peacock, now with Florida Design Consultants. "It was one of the best things to happen to me and the organization."

The two were involved in the county's aggressive land-buying campaign to acquire lands that would ultimately form the 8,300-acre Brooker Creek Preserve, a vast wilderness area located in the northeast corner of Pinellas County. The land was snatched up in parcels with earliest purchases targeted to protect groundwater quality and waters flowing into Lake Tarpon. Adoption of the county's growth management plan in 1989 encouraged expansion of the conservation lands around that area. A Penny for Pinellas sales tax and state Preservation 2000 funds provided additional funds.

"Once we had the land, we needed to let people come in and the concept of environmental education centers evolved," Stowers says. "It was the commitment of the county commissioners to build these that became instrumental in passing the second penny tax."

"He's a rainmaker," says former County Commissioner Sallie Parks. "Jake was always good at understanding where there were areas for compromise."

Most weekends find Stowers out on the water. Fort DeSoto and Weedon Island are favorite boating destinations, but the quiet stretches of Tampa Bay's Braden and Hillsborough rivers hold special charms. "I can take a fly rod and popping bug or a spider and catch bluegill all day," says Stowers.

Fishing is a family affair, exercised every chance they get. Stowers recalls a trip deep into the Alaskan wilderness where the family spent time with Apabaskan Indians, whose poverty failed to dim their joy for the land and fishing. "We try to build those kind of cultural experiences in whenever we can," he says.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the devastating destruction of Hurricane Katrina. I know that the American people are a generous people. I know that the men and women of this Nation feel the suffering of their fellow citizens, and will continue to stand with them in any way that they can.

We are here today to discuss what our government must do in the wake of this disaster. The emergency appropriations bill set to be passed this afternoon is a step in the right direction. Everyone in this chamber realizes that more money—much more—will be needed in the days and months ahead. I'm confident that

this Congress won't think twice about doing everything necessary to meet the critical needs of the desperate citizens in the affected regions of our country.

The shock and grief which has rightly motivated this degree of Federal support is, however, already giving way to anger. Over the past 4 years, a great portion of our national discourse has focused on preparedness. Members of Congress have created new government entities, spent billions upon billions of dollars on them, and spoken at great length about the need for our country to be perpetually vigilant and always ready to respond to any disaster which could befall it.

It is therefore not surprising that the loss of life produced by this hurricane—perhaps four times as great as the human cost of September 11, 2001—has incensed our citizens and shocked observers around the world. It has revealed that we are still unable to respond to homeland disasters in the fast and aggressive manner required.

But as is often the case, what has happened in the Gulf States has also revealed what can only be described as a skewed set of national priorities. Simply put, this was a tragedy which didn't have to happen. People at all levels of government have known for years that New Orleans was a greatly vulnerable city. In fact, in 2001, the Federal Emergency Management Agency produced a list of the worst disasters which could confront our country. A hurricane striking New Orleans was at the top of that list.

And so, it would be reasonable to expect that during the years leading up to this past week, local, State, and Federal Governments would have been doing everything within their power to prepare a complete and carefully planned strategy for how to deal with the aftermath of such an event.

They didn't. It was obvious that we still are not ready to evacuate a large number of people from their homes to safety quickly and effectively. This failing is a danger to all Americans, and must be corrected immediately.

But what is worse, our government spent the last few years actually undermining our readiness for disaster prevention in New Orleans and the surrounding region. Federal funds for flood control projects in that city have faced massive recent budget cuts. To cite but one example: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has so valiantly struggled against the rising floodwaters this week, had to struggle previously against an 80 percent cut of its funding for New Orleans in 2004. Predictably, one of the major motivators of cuts like these was the spiraling costs of American military operations in Iraq, which continue to siphon off tens of billions of dollars from domestic programs.

The natural defenses of New Orleans faced an assault as well. In 2003, the current Administration reversed a previous commitment to defending coastal wetlands which would have helped to mitigate the effect of storms on the Gulf coast. Instead, the areas were opened up for rapid development.

Nor were the people of the region given the tools they needed for survival. Poverty in America has been increasing year after year. Now, 12.7 percent of our population lives in poverty—that's four million more people than in 2001. As is overwhelmingly obvious, those damaged the most by Hurricane Katrina were some of our country's poorest citizens. Before

the storm hit, they were out of direct communication with authorities. They had no means to evacuate themselves or their families. And during the critical hours when wealthier residents were fleeing, the poorest were left alone to fend for themselves.

It is true that the devastation vested upon New Orleans and the Gulf region was the product of an act of nature. But its severity was greatly exacerbated by a combination of a lack of vision by our leaders and a failure to properly prioritize our Nation's energies and resources. Despite all the talk to the contrary, our government has viewed elective foreign wars as more important than having a real system in place here at home which can respond to any contingency. It hasn't seriously worked to address the poverty which makes millions of people all the more vulnerable to disasters. And it has seen commercial activity as simply being more valuable than defending the naturally existent barriers to disaster which we should be perfectly willing to save.

If anything positive can come from this, I hope it's a wake up call. This week, our failures had horrific consequences for millions of people, and they were especially devastating for just those men and women our society should be focused on the most: the poor, the elderly, the sick, the needy, the displaced, and the homeless. We must meet these serious problems head on and work to solve them. Our errors should not be covered up with political grand standing and slaps on the back. This failure must not be swept under the rug. If we don't learn from this horrible, horrible mistake, I fear we will repeat it, at a new point in time, and at a new place on the map.

This Congress must do what is right for the people of this Nation. They will be watching.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WANDA SAMEK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wanda Samek on her installation as President of the National Society of Accountants. Entering into this role serves as a symbol of Mrs. Samek's ongoing devotion and commitment to the organization.

During her affiliation with the National Society of Accountants, Mrs. Samek has held numerous leadership positions, chairing various committees and task forces. In addition, she has received multiple honors, such as being named Accountant of the Year in 1994, winning the Golden Quill Award in 1998, and the President's Award in 2003. For her tireless service and dedication, Mrs. Samek was presented in 1996 with the Society's most prestigious accolade, the Distinguished Service Award.

Within her new role as president, Mrs. Samek will provide leadership to the National Society of Accountants by serving as chairman of the organization's Board of Directors and its Executive Committee which is responsible for monitoring and implementing investment policy. During her tenure, she will also be presiding over many meetings of the association. In addition, she will deliver the annual message of the National Society to its National Council of Delegates, providing them

with an update on the organization's progress and growth.

It is with great honor that I stand here today and recognize Wanda Samek. Her inauguration as president of the National Society of Accountants is a testament to her commitment to the association and her professional career. I am honored to congratulate a constituent from my district on attaining this well-deserved position.

RECOGNIZING JEREMY CHRISTOPHER WOOD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremy Christopher Wood of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jeremy will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Christopher Wood for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Wood in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE SRI CHINMOY MARATHON TEAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team for their organization and participation of the World Harmony Run 2005.

Commencing April 16, the World Harmony Run seeks to advance international camaraderie through bringing together runners from more than seventy countries and all fifty states. The goal of this event is to promote genuine goodwill and understanding of cultures through a 10,000 mile trek that will come to an end on August 14th. This event was inspired by Sri Chinmoy in 1987 through his vision of sport as a means of furthering international harmony.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the participants of the World Harmony Run 2005. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the diligent work of the many volunteers involved in World Harmony Run 2005 and the members of the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes numbered 454 and 455. Rollcall vote 454 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to, H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific. Rollcall vote 455 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to, S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 454 and 455.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3645 to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to meet the immediate needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina. But more importantly, I rise today in support of the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who are suffering throughout the Gulf Coast States as a result of what has been called our Nation's greatest natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina. I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say our prayers are with each and everyone of them as they struggle through these extremely difficult and life threatening times.

The supplemental legislation we are approving today is absolutely critical to continue the infusion of federal funding into this area. News agencies have reported the cost of this disaster to be around \$500 million a day. The \$10.5 billion in federal funding we are approving today should be viewed as a down payment in terms of funding and resources to come in the following months. I am confident these resources will be used efficiently and effectively, helping those most in need and importantly, helping to support emergency protective measures as well as debris removal and rehabilitation.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency should be recognized for its response to this disaster and their organization of food, water, medical supplies, generators, shelter and other items to help those who have been displaced due to Hurricane Katrina. And the Department of Defense and National Guard should be recognized for the deployment of military personnel who are helping communities respond to this crisis.

I know personally that every State is pooling their resources and is doing all it can to help these victims in the Gulf Coast area. For example in my home State of Delaware, we have deployed National Guard troops and

planes to help at Ground Zero and in the surrounding disaster areas; Delaware State University is waiving tuition for Tulane University students to attend class; my office is working with the Food Bank of Delaware to start a Hunger Drive for those in need; local schools are collecting monetary donations to send to the victims; and, Delmarva Power is sending workers to restore electricity in the region. But I am confident we can reach even deeper and partner together to help our fellow Americans.

It is always in times of tragedy—like the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 or the Tsunami this past December in Southeast Asia—where human decency and patriotism is front and center. We need to muster the same resources and patriotism and provide the same help to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I am hopeful the Federal Government will continue to respond in a way that is appropriate, action oriented and immediate to the Gulf Coast Region. As I have said, the funding we are approving today, is just the beginning. I expect a more comprehensive package to reach the House Floor in the coming weeks, once more precise estimates are understood.

These are very sad and trying times. May God Bless those in need and their families.

FRANCHISING APPRECIATION DAY

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome over 300 franchisee, franchisor, and franchise supplier members of the International Franchise Association who are visiting Washington on September 13 as part of "Franchise Appreciation Day," the IFA's annual fly-in to the Nation's Capital.

As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the IFA is the world's oldest and largest trade association representing the franchise community with a membership roster that includes more than 1,000 franchisors, 8,000 franchisees and 400 suppliers.

Franchising is a driving force of our economy and generates \$1.53 trillion in economic output and one-of-every-seven jobs in the Nation's private-sector economy, according to a study conducted for the IFA Educational Foundation by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The "Economic Impact of Franchised Businesses" study found that there are more than 760,000 franchised small businesses in the U.S., generating more than 18 million jobs.

Those statistics are impressive enough on their own, but of particular concern and interest to me is the initiative the International Franchise Association has taken to help our veterans move from their service in the armed forces into the world of franchise ownership. Through the Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative, commonly known as "VetFran," 360 veterans have been assisted in purchasing their own franchise small business, and 120 more are in various stages of negotiation.

VetFran was established by Don Dwyer, the late founder of The Dwyer Group and an IFA leader, during Operation Desert Storm. It was re-initiated following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The program requires that participating franchisors offer veterans their "best deal" through discounts or other incentives that are determined by each company,

and more than 150 franchise companies that are members of IFA participate.

These businesses provide a great public service to our veterans and our communities, and I would like their names to be officially entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that their good work may be officially recognized. I also would like the RECORD to include a list of the businesses started in 45 states.

It is inspiring to me to see these companies step up, put their resources on the line and help our veterans. I think it is important to note that these are not Federal dollars—these are private-sector dollars, and I think this program is a model that should be followed and supported by others.

I would also like to add that the good work of this program has been recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, which recently recognized IFA with a Support Sector Champion Award for expanding business opportunities for veterans; the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Veterans Corporation.

Those who know me know that I am no stranger to helping veterans, and earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would ease the way for more U.S. veterans to buy a franchised business.

The "Veterans Self-Employment Act" would establish a five-year pilot program that would allow American service members, veterans, national guardsmen, reservists, and qualified others to use some of their Veterans Administration educational assistance to defray training costs associated with obtaining a franchised small business.

Acquiring a franchise is a great way for people to gain the skills they need to successfully open and operate a business, but it often requires "basic training" in business education—customer service, daily operations management, business computer systems, inventory control, costing and pricing, and meeting regulatory obligations—as well as specialized training for the goods, services, policies, and practices of the individual franchise system.

The legislation I introduced is endorsed by the International Franchise Association, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill that would help to turn more proud veterans into proud business owners.

When franchise leaders and small business men and women visit us on Franchise Appreciation Day, September 13, I have no doubt that my colleagues will join me in making them feel welcome and discuss public-policy issues that will help franchising to continue to boost the nation's economy, and help our men and women who have fought so valiantly to protect our freedoms. IFA Member Franchisors Participating in the VetFran Program include:

1-800-DryClean, 1-800-Got-Junk, 2 Scoops Café, @Wireless, @WORK Franchise, @WORK HelpingHands Services, @WORK Medical Services, @WORK Personnel Services, A-Pro Services, Action International, AeroWest Services, AIM Mail Centers, Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning, All American Specialty Restaurants, All Tune & Lube, Allegra Print & Imaging, Alta Mere Window Tinting and Auto Alarms, American Leak Detection, American Poolplayers Association, American Wholesale Thermographers, AmeriSpec Home Inspection Service, Bark Busters, Baskin-Robbins, Batteries Plus, Bevinco's, Big L's-Friendly Computers, Big O Tires, Blimpie's Subs & Salads, Brightscape Investment Centers, Camp Bow Wow, Candy Bouquet, Cardsmart Retail Corporation, Cartridge World North America, Carvel Corpora-

tion, Case Handyman Services, CGI International, Checkers Drive-In Restaurants, Children's Orchard, CHIP The Child I.D. Program of America, The Cleaning Authority, CM IT Solutions, The Coffee Beanery, College Nannies & Tutors, ComForcare Senior Services, Comfort Keepers, Computer Renaissance, ComputerTots/Computer Explorers, Concerto Networks, Cookies by Design/Cookie Bouquet, Copy Club, Cottman Transmissions Systems, Coverall Cleaning Concepts, Creative Colors International, Crestcom International, Cruise Holidays, Cruise One, D'Angelo Sandwich Shops, DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Dunkin' Donuts, Edible Arrangements, The Entrepreneur's Source, Expense Reduction Analysts, Expense Reduction Consulting, Expetec Technology Services, Express Personnel Services, ExxonMobil Corporation, Fantastic Sam's, Fastframe USA, The Filta Group, Foodnet, Foot Solutions, Furniture Medic, Geeks on Call, Glass Doctor, Gold's Gym International, Gymboree Play & Music, Handyman Matters Franchise Corp., Happy & Healthy Products, Have Signs Will Travel, i9 Sports, Inspect-It 1st Franchising Corp., Island Ink-Jet Systems, Jet Black International, Juice It Up Franchise Corp., KaBloom Franchising Corp., Kitchen Tune-Up, Kwik Kopy Business Centers, Labor Finders, Lawn Doctor, Learning Express Toys, Leather Medic, Lentz USA Service Center, Liberty Tax Service, Link Staffing Services, Maid Brigade, MaidPro, Marble Slab Creamery, Marco's Pizza, Matco Tools, Maui Wowi Smoothies, Meineke Car Care Centers, Merry Maids, L.P., Milex, Tune-Up and Brakes, Molly Maid, Money Mailer, Mr. Appliance, Mr. Electric, Mr. Handyman, Mr. Rooter Plumbing, Mr. Transmission, Multistate Transmissions, Navis Pack & Ship Centers, Netspace, Open Works, Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, Parcel Plus, The Philly Franchising Company, Planet Beach Franchising Corp., Positive Changes Hypnosis, PostalAnnex+, Postal Connections of America, PostNet, Precision Tune Auto Care, Puroclean, Rainbow Int'l Restoration and Cleaning, Ritter's Frozen Custard, Safe Kids Cards, Sarah Adult Day Services, The Screen Machine, SealMaster, Sears Carpet & Upholstery Care, ServiceMaster Clean, Siegel Capital, Snelling Personnel Services, Sparkle Wash, Sport Clips, The Sports Section, Spring-Green Lawn Care Corp., Sunbelt Business Brokers, TeamLogic IT, Togo's Eatery, Travel Lines Express, TruFoods, TurboHaul, Two Men And A Truck, The UPS Store, Vanguard Cleaning Systems, Victory Lane Quick Oil Change, Virginia Barbecue Franchise Co., Wild Bird Centers of America, WineStyles, Wing Zone, Wireless Zone, World Inspection Network, Zoup! Systems.

Franchised Businesses Established Through the VetFran Program include:

Alabama: Birmingham: Meineke, Decatur: Vanguard Cleaning Systems, Robertsdale: Merry Maids.

Alaska: Anchorage: American Poolplayers, MBE/UPS Store.

Arizona: Gilbert: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Lake Havasu: MBE/UPS Store, Maricopa: World Inspection Network, Mesa: Expetec, Peoria: Coffee Beanery, Phoenix: Foot Solutions, Molly Maid, World Inspection Network, Scottsdale: PostNet, Show Low: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning, Vail: KaBloom Franchising Corp.

Arkansas: Little Rock: Cleaning Authority, Rogers: PostNet, Siloam Springs: PostNet, Springdale: PostNet.

California: Anaheim: Navis Pack & Ship Centers, Angel Camp: Mr. Rooter, Antelope: MBE/UPS Store, Auburn: PostalAnnex+, Chula Vista: MBE/UPS Store, PostNet, Corte Madera: 1-800 Dry-Clean, Crona: PostNet, Encinitas: Mr. Handyman, Fair Oaks:

PostNet, Fallbrook: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Granada Hills: MBE/UPS Store, Hayward: PostNet, Hesperia: World Inspection Network, Huntington Beach: MBE/UPS Store, Imperial: Rainbow Int'l Restoration & Cleaning, La Habra: Cm IT Solutions, Laguna Hills: MBE/UPS Store, Laguna Niguel: Mr. Handyman, Lakeside: MBE/UPS Store, Los Angeles: 1-800-Got Junk, Meineke, Morgan Hills: World Inspection Network, Mountain View: Mr. Handyman, Newark: Cartridge World, Orange: Express Personnel, Pacifica: Molly Maid, Pasadena: MBE/UPS Store, San Diego: Concerto Network, PostalAnnex+, Santa Ana: MBE/UPS Store, Suisun City: MBE/UPS Store, Upland: World Inspection Network.

Colorado: Colorado Springs: Meineke, PostalAnnex+, Ranbor Int'l Restoration & Cleaning, Sears Carpet & Upholstery Care, Denver: Meineke Car Care Centers, Fort Collins: Expetec, Longmont: Mr. Electric, Loveland: MBE/UPS Store, Parker: PostNet, Superior: MBE/UPS Store, Rainbow Int'l Restoration & Cleaning.

Connecticut: Orange: MBE/UPS Store, Southbury: FastFrame USA.

District of Columbia: Washington: Meineke Car Care Centers, Safe Kids Card.

Florida: Apollo Beach: MBE/UPS Store, Charlotte: Mr. Appliance, Groveland: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Inverness: MBE/UPS Store, Jacksonville: Cleaning Authority, Mr. Appliance, Melbourne: Creative Colors, Miami: MBE/UPS Store, Naples: Coffee Beanery, Ocala: Lentz USA Service Centers, Orlando: Matco Tools, Meineke Car Care Centers, Vanguard Cleaning Systems, Pompano Beach: MBE/UPS Store, Santa Rosa Beach: MBE/UPS Store, St. Charlotte: Glass Doctor, St. Petersburg: Express Personnel, Tampa: Geeks on Call, Titusville: MBE/UPS Store.

Georgia: Athens: Merry Maids, Atlanta: Comfort Keepers, Geeks on Call, Gold's Gym, MBE/UPS Store, Meinke Car Care Centers, Carrollton: MBE/UPS Store, Dacula: FastFrame USA, Dallas: MBE/UPS Store, Douglasville: Mr. Appliance, Fairburn: The Sports Section, Hiram: MBE/UPS Store, Savannah: MBE/UPS Store, Woodstock: MBE/UPS Store.

Hawaii: Lihue: MBE/UPS Store.

Idaho: Boise: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Mr. Appliance.

Illinois: Cary: Sport Clips, Champaign/Urbana: Meineke Car Care Centers, Chicago: Expetec; Meineke Car Care Centers, Geneva: Navis Pack & Ship Centers, Homewood: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning, N. Aurora: Molly Maid, Ottawa: MBE/UPS Store, Sycamore: Vanguard Cleaning Systems.

Indiana: Evansville: MBE/UPS Store, Indianapolis: Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, Ritter's Frozen Custard, Merrillville: BE/UPS Store.

Iowa: Ankeny: MBE/UPS Store, Council Bluffs: MBE/UPS Store, Pleasant Hill: World Inspection Network.

Kansas: Kansas City: 1-800-Got Junk, Navis Pack & Ship Centers, Olathe: MBE/UPS Store.

Kentucky: Georgetown: MBE/UPS Store, Lexington: MBE/UPS Store, Louisville: Sport Clips, Richmond: Comfort Keepers.

Louisiana: Hammond: Mr. Appliance, Kenner: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen.

Maryland: Baltimore: Meineke Car Care Centers, Edgewater: MBE/UPS Store, Largo: Wireless Zone, Perry Hall: MBE/UPS Store.

Massachusetts: Boston: FastFrame USA, Gold's Gym, East Falmouth: MBE/UPS Store, Falmouth: Mr. Rooter, Rowley: MBE/UPS Store.

Michigan: Berkley: Coffee Beanery, Clinton Township: MBE/UPS Store, Mr. Handyman, Wayne: MBE/UPS Store.

Minnesota: Minneapolis: Two Men And A Truck, Ramsey: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen.

Mississippi: Gulfport: American Poolplayers, Ridgeland: FastFrame USA.

Missouri: Centralia: Mr. Appliance, Creve Coeur: MBE/UPS Store, Eureka: MBE/UPS Store, Fenton: World Inspection Network, Hattiesburg: Coffee Beanery, Independence: MBE/UPS Store, Maplewood: Vanguard Cleaning Systems, Raytown: MBE/UPS Store, St. Charles: MBE/UPS Store, St. Louis: Meineke Car Care Centers.

Montana: Billings: Meineke Car Care Centers.

Nebraska: Omaha: World Inspection Network.

Nevada: Carson City: FastFrame USA, Mr. Appliance, Henderson: World Inspection Network, Las Vegas: MBE/UPS Store, Reno: PostNet, Sparks: PostNet.

New Hampshire: Manchester: Express Personnel.

New Jersey: Barnegat: Expetec, Bergenfield: Molly Maid, Bloomfield: Merry Maids, Flemington: Mr. Electric, Highland Park: MBE/UPS Store, Maplewood: Concerto Network, Middlesex/Somerset: Meineke Car Care Centers, Oakridge: Coffee Beanery, Toms River: Cleaning Authority, Trenton: Matco Tools, Woolwich Twpk: PostalAnnex+.

New Mexico: Roswell: MBE/UPS Store, Santa Fe: Glass Doctor.

New York: Brooklyn: MBE/UPS Store, Great Neck: Molly Maid, Macedon: Happy & Healthy Products, Seldon: MBE/UPS Store, Staten Island: MBE/UPS Store, Syosset: MBE/UPS Store, Williamsville: MBE/UPS Store.

North Carolina: Charlotte: Geeks on Call, Fayetteville: Sears Carpet & Upholstery Care, Greensboro: Molly Maid, Navis Pack & Ship Centers, Raleigh: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, MBE/UPS Store, Meineke Car Care Centers, Rocky Mount: Mr. Appliance, Williamston: PostNet, Wilmington: Candy Bouquet.

North Dakota: Fargo/Moorehead: Meineke Car Care Centers.

Ohio: Ashland: MBE/UPS Store, Canton: Maid Brigade, Cincinnati: i9 Sports, Columbus: FastFrame USA, Dayton: AmeriSpec Home Inspection Service, Franklin: MBE/UPS Store, Strongsville: FastFrame USA, Waterford: Mr. Rooter, Westerville: PostNet.

Oklahoma: Tulsa MBE/UPS Store, Tuttle: Mr. Handyman.

Oregon: Eugene: PostNet, Woodburn: PostNet.

Pennsylvania: Allentown: 1-800-Got Junk, Express Personnel, Collegeville: Expetec, Hollidaysburg: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning, Lansdale: Sparkle Wash, Lebanon: Safe Kids Card, Lower Burrell: Mr. Appliance, Palmyra: MBE/UPS Store, Philadelphia: Geeks on Call, i9 Sports, Pittsburgh: Concerto Network, MBE/UPS Store, Two Men and a Truck, Richboro: MBE/UPS Store, State College: Express Personnel, York: Candy Bouquet.

Rhode Island: Warwick: Expetec.

South Carolina: Beaufort: MBE/UPS Store, Charleston: Concerto Network, Greenville: Cleaning Authority, Moncks Comer: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Mount Pleasant: Safe Kids Card, Ocean Isle: Mr. Appliance, Sumter: Comfort Keepers.

Tennessee: Chattanooga: Sport Clips, Germantown: FastFrame USA, Jackson: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Nashville: Expetec, Vanguard Cleaning Systems, World Inspection Network.

Texas: Amarillo: Mr. Electric, Bailey: Safe Kids Card, Baytown: Express Personnel, Beaumont: MBE/UPS Store, Boerne: Candy Bouquet, College Station: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Mr. Electric, Cypress: MBE/UPS Store, Dallas: Meineke Car Care Centers, Garland: MBE/UPS Store, Houston: KaBloom Franchising, MBE/UPS Store, Ritter's Frozen Custard, Safe Kids Card, Vanguard

Cleaning Systems League City: MBE/UPS Store, Mansfield: Safe Kids Card, Midland: MBE/UPS Store, New Braunfels: Cartridge World, Round Rock: Mr. Electric, San Antonio: MBE/UPS Store, Texarkana: MBE/UPS Store, The Colony: Molly Maid, The Woodlands: PostNet, Victoria: Coffee Beanery, Waco: Mr. Appliance.

Utah: Herriman: MBE/UPS Store, Riverton: PostalAnnex+, Salt Lake City: Navis Pack & Ship Centers, Saratoga Springs: PostNet.

Virginia: Bristow: PostNet, Chantilly: Expetec, Charlottesville: Matco Tools, Sport Clips, Fredericksburg: 1-800-Got Junk, New Castle: Glass Doctor, Portsmouth: MBE/UPS Store, Roanoke: Precision Tune Auto Care, Rockingham: County Meineke Car Care Centers, Virginia Beach: 1-800-Got Junk, PostNet, Wireless Zone.

Washington: Burlington: MBE/UPS Store, Mills Creek: Comfort Keepers, North Bend: DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Spokane: Molly Maid, Spokane Valley: MBE/UPS Store, Walla Walla: American Poolplayers Association.

West Virginia: Huntington: Mr. Electric.

Wisconsin: Green Bay: i9 Sports, Milwaukee: 1-800-Got Junk, Muskego: Expetec, Stevens Point: MBE/UPS Store, Superior: MBE/UPS Store.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VELMA LORNE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Velma Lorne for being a recipient of the "Unsung Hero" Award, presented by the Texas Public Employees Association. Mrs. Lorne was one of eleven people to receive the honor out of approximately three hundred nominees.

Velma Lorne has been a corrections officer in Texas for nearly three decades. During her tenure with the Denton and Gainesville State Schools, she has been the recipient of many accolades, including being named Employee of the Year in 1988.

This award represents the varied activities that Mrs. Lorne devotes herself to within Gainesville State School. She goes beyond her daily duties to help fellow employees with transportation to and from the facility as well as providing meals for State School functions. In addition, she is actively involved in annual fundraising efforts for the United Way among State School employees.

It is a great honor to stand here today and congratulate Velma Lorne for winning the "Unsung Hero" Award. This is an honor that is well deserved by Mrs. Lorne, as she has served as a hero to many Texas youth throughout her career of selfless service.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS WILLIAM WINDHORST FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas William Windhorst of

Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Nicholas will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Nicholas has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas William Windhorst for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Windhorst in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE PARKVIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Parkview Volunteer Fire Department, PVFD, of O'Hara Township on their 75th anniversary of service.

Over the past 75 years the PVFD has maintained its missions of protecting the residents of O'Hara Township. Serving nearly 9,000 people and roughly 150 businesses, the PVFD has established a tremendous amount of respect among the community for their public service. Since 1930 the PVFD has developed, maintained, and strengthened a strong mutual trust and open communications between the fire department and the community in which it protects.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of the Parkview Volunteer Fire Department. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such principled public servants as the Parkview Volunteer Fire Department.

350th ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in 2003, along with our former colleague Congressman Rob Portman, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 106, recognizing the 350th anniversary of Jewish communal life in North America. H. Con. Res. 106 was adopted by unanimous vote. An identical resolution was introduced in the other body by Senators DEWINE and VOINOVICH and was adopted as well.

Today, I would like to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a Rabbinical Resolution issued by the Presidents of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly, the Rabbinical Council of America,

and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association commemorating the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in America and proclaiming the period from September 2004 to September 2005 "to be one of special thanksgiving, prayer, study, reflection and celebration."

The resolution follows.

CELEBRATE 350—JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA,
1654–2004

Let it be known that in Elul 5764 (September 2004) the Jewish community of the United States began a year long commemoration marking the 350th Anniversary of Jewish settlement in this country.

With the help of God and under the protection of the Constitution of the United States, we have lived and prospered in this land. We have been an integral part of American life. We have worked with all other Americans in the never-ending effort to keep secure the democratic way of life. Our ancient prophetic ideals and the teachings of our sages serve as cornerstones of this nation's values. Our work, our hopes, and above all, our living religion have been among our proudest offerings to the American community.

In some lands across the seas the Jewish people have felt the searing flame of prejudice, persecution and death. The American Jew has had the sad yet inspiring opportunity to bring comfort to the oppressed, the joyous opportunity to participate in the reconstitution of the Jewish state on the ancient soil of Israel, and the inescapable and ennobling responsibility to mend the broken places in our world.

Even as we have worked for the well-being of our people abroad, the Jewish people in America have struggled to preserve our noble heritage, our historic traditions, our ancient teachings, our ethics, and our spiritual ideals in the free climate of our nation.

Mindful of our manifold blessings and with deep gratitude in our hearts to the God of Israel, Who, in 1954, led our forebears to the shores of this great new land,

We have proclaimed the period from Elul 5764 (September 2004) through Elul 5765 (September 2005) to be one of special thanksgiving, prayer, study, reflection and celebration to mark the 350th Anniversary of Jewish Communal Life in America.

We call on all American Jewry to participate in the observance of this anniversary; to thank God for the bountiful blessings that have been bestowed on us in this remarkable land. Let us express our collective hope that peace, security, and prosperity will reign in our nation for all. May the principles of freedom and liberty that have been the lodestar values of this great Republic continue to radiate their blessings on our nation.

RABBI HARRY DANZIGER,
*President, Central
Conference of American
Rabbis.*

RABBI PERRY RAPHAEL
RANK,
*President, Rabbinical
Assembly.*

RABBI DALE POLAKOFF,
*President, Rabbinical
Council of America.*

RABBI BRANT ROSEN,
*President, Reconstructionist
Rabbinical
Association.*

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, for more than a week we have all watched television coverage of Hurricane Katrina, transfixed by the devastating impact of the storm on the Gulf Coast, especially in and around New Orleans. Although the full extent of the damage is not yet known, it is clear that thousands of Americans have died, and many more have been injured, shaken and displaced. The wind, rain and flooding has destroyed homes, businesses, farms and crops, causing immeasurable suffering.

The destruction has significantly scarred the people and the economy of the region and even beyond. Rebuilding the area's infrastructure will probably take years. Rebuilding the lives of our fellow Americans will also take time and require assistance.

Many people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama lack basics such as food, water, clothing, sleeping materials, medicine and first aid. We must help provide for their critical immediate needs so they can survive.

I am heartened that my constituents in the Inland Empire of California have heeded the call to help. I am not surprised by our response; however, because I already know that our communities are generous. We have shown great compassion responding to those in need, as we did following September 11th and other tragedies affecting people thousands of miles away. And we must do so again when so many Americans are suffering.

My immediate concern has been the effort to rescue and assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina, making sure that we do all we can to help those in need.

Congress is taking a first step by approving more than \$10 billion of funding for emergency assistance to help. We all recognize that the costs of rescue, recovery and rebuilding will be substantially higher, and I am confident that Congress, and the American people, will support additional funding.

However, we in Congress must also focus on determining what needs to be done to minimize devastation from future natural disasters or other emergencies. So we must ask difficult questions about the Federal Government's preparation and planning prior to the storm and the response following it.

One of the fundamental responsibilities of government is to protect our citizens. So we must investigate fully whether the Administration did all it could have, and should have, to protect Americans.

Katrina was a powerful and deadly natural disaster, but we must ask whether hundreds, maybe even thousands of Americans, died because of the failure of officials to prepare and respond effectively.

IN HONOR OF RECORDING ARTS
DAY

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special recognition to the first ever Recording Arts Day on Capitol Hill.

The Recording Arts and Sciences Congressional Caucus, working with The Recording Academy®, has sought to include the voice of artists and other professionals in policymaking decisions. Over the course of the year, Members of Congress have reached out to members of the recording arts community in hopes of working together on many critical issues facing this industry. Today, musicians, songwriters, singers, producers and other key members of The Recording Academy® will visit Members of Congress on the Hill to share their experiences and raise awareness on matters of importance to them.

Those participating in Recording Arts Day will focus on a variety of issues, including protecting intellectual property rights, bolstering music education and emphasizing the importance of music preservation. It is through the private and public sectors working together on these causes that we can nurture future artists and support music, one of this country's greatest and largest exports.

Under the leadership of Recording Academy® President Neil Portnow, The Recording Academy® has greatly increased its presence on Capitol Hill. Mr. Portnow realizes how critical it is for artists to engage in policymaking and sees it as the responsibility of artists and others to educate and influence actions affecting them.

I would also like to commend the Recording Academy's Daryl Friedman, Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs, for helping to organize Recording Arts Day. Thanks to his efforts, this promises to be a very successful and informative day.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to recognize Recording Arts Day and hope this inaugural event becomes an annual tradition.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST
ERNEST DALLAS, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr., from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. SPC Dallas died July 24, 2005 with three other soldiers when a roadside bomb exploded next to their Bradley Fighting Vehicle. SPC Dallas was assigned as a scout in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad. He was 21 years old.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr.'s life today. SPC Dallas, a Fred Moore High School graduate, enlisted for a three-year hitch in November 2003, because he wanted to serve his country and felt he needed the training to meet his future goals. A loving family member, Specialist

Dallas took time to phone home to get caught up with his family and hear news from Texas.

He was a dedicated soldier who earned the respect of those around him. Sergeant Frederick Wysingle, who recruited SPC Dallas in July 2003, said he was the perfect soldier. He was proud of the work he was doing and had just relayed to his family news that his platoon had recently curbed insurgent activity in Iraq. Promoted two months prior to his death from private first class, his promotion was made official two days after he died.

Just a few weeks prior to his death, Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr. sent an engagement ring to his girlfriend. He was truly a soldier who understood his duty, and planned for a future beyond his service to his country.

It was my honor to represent Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr., and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON JAMES MYNATT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James Mynatt of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Brandon will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Brandon has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon James Mynatt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Mynatt in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Lawrence County Builders Association (LCBA), on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past 25 years the LCBA has worked diligently to provide support services to its builder and associate members. This nonprofit trade association has also worked tirelessly with the National Association of Home Builders and Pennsylvania Builders Association to create a positive regulatory and legislative environment to keep housing and

general construction affordable. I recognize the LCBA for all of their hard work and dedication to education and professional development for all of its members.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of the LCBA. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Lawrence County Builders Association.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PFC RAMON A. VILLATORO, JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Private First Class Ramon A. Villatoro, Jr., who lost his life supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Villatoro, 19, joined the United States Army on July 24, 2004. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Shortly thereafter, he reported to his first assignment at the Replacement Detachment. Within a few days, Mr. Villatoro's leadership and dedication was recognized and he was assigned to the K Troop, 3rd Squadron, and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment on January 7, 2005. Mr. Villatoro was committed to his role in his Primary Military Occupational Specialty, as a 19D, Cavalry Scout.

Mr. Villatoro was deployed to protect our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 3, 2005. Prior to leaving on his envoy to Iraq, Mr. Villatoro was promoted to Private First Class (PFC). Unfortunately, Mr. Villatoro's tour in Iraq ended when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle on July 24, 2005.

Mr. Villatoro's strength of character and valor earned him well-deserved recognition, including: Army Good Conduct Medal (Posthumous); National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Combat Action Badge (Posthumous). He also received the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous); and the Weapons Qualification Badge, which certified him as an expert in certain rifle weaponry. Finally, Mr. Villatoro was awarded a Purple Heart, currently the oldest military decoration in the world, awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded or killed in the line of action.

Surviving Mr. Villatoro is his wife of eight months, Amanda Villatoro. Mrs. Villatoro is expecting their first child in three months. Also surviving Mr. Villatoro is his family, all of whom reside in Bakersfield, CA.

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences, to Mr. Villatoro's family, for the loss of his life. His loss symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His service represented his commitment to protect his family, community, and our Nation. Mr. Villatoro's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come.

COMMENDING THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE STEERING COMMITTEE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to extend my thanks towards the committee, for inviting me to partake in today's celebration.

Since its inception, The Puerto Rican Day Parade of WNY, Inc, has brought the history and heritage of Hispanics to the forefront of this areas long standing cultural legacy. The Puerto Rican Day Parade allows people from all over western New York to come and enjoy themselves as they preserve a part of there culture.

This parade does not only supply this community with a day long celebration of beauty and pride, but empowers the community by celebrating the history of Puerto Rico.

And lastly the parade supplies a positive outlook for this community. This parade is a example of how prosperous a future the Hispanic community has, and its prominent role in the direction of western New York.

Thanks to the selfless and tireless efforts of this committee, for the last 3 years the Puerto Rican community has had the ability to collectively share and embrace there heritage right here in Buffalo.

I, Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS, on behalf of the 27th Congressional District, would like to show my gratitude towards the committee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific (rollcall vote 454); and on the motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, S.J. Res. 19, Calling on the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act (rollcall vote 455). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS HERRION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Thomas Herrion, from Fort Worth, Texas, and his passion for life. He died at the tender age of 23 after collapsing in the San Francisco 49ers locker room following a National Football League exhibition game.

Thomas was one of seven children growing up in south Fort Worth. He often played the drums at church where his father was the minister. While attending Polytechnic High School,

he was a 4-year starter for the football team, a center for the basketball team, and competed in discus and the shot-put on the track team. When he wasn't competing or studying, he worked to help support his family. After high school, he went on to play for Kilgore Junior College and the University of Utah.

Thomas will be remembered as a hard worker and someone who lived his life to the fullest. He always had a bright personality that made everyone laugh, and he had passion for life and infused this zeal into everything he did. His ultimate dream, after finishing his NFL career, was to return home to Fort Worth and help his community. Thomas wanted to get his teaching degree and coach football. First in his heart was his mother—he wanted to always be there for her and planned to her the house of her dreams.

I extend my condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Herrion. His legacy will serve as an inspiration those who strive to achieve their dreams and live life to the fullest.

RECOGNIZING GREGORY ALLAN
POLITTE FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gregory Allan Politte of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Gregory will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Gregory has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Gregory has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gregory Allan Politte for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Politte in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE ADULT
LITERACY LAWRENCE COUNTY
ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Adult Literacy Lawrence County (ALLC), on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past 25 years the ALLC has worked diligently to provide support services to adults that struggle to read. This organization was launched when New Castle Public Library's director, Ms. Roux, heard Al Bennett of the U.S. Dept. of Education speak about li-

braries taking responsibility for developing literacy programs. Securing non-profit status in 1996, the ALLC officially became a community-based organization.

This non-profit organization has worked tirelessly to create a positive environment to meet the changing needs of the community. The agency offers tutoring, ABE and GED, family literacy, and computer literacy components. From July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 more than 240 adults participated in one or more ALLC program components. Additionally 1,048 children read more than 5,000 books as they competed for a ride in the Summer Reading Kickoff Parade. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the ALLC for all of their hard work and dedication to continued education and literacy competence of its community members.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of the ALLC. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Adult Literacy Lawrence County.

TRIBUTE TO J. ROBERTS DAILEY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Indiana lost a pillar of the political community last month. On Saturday, August 13, J. Roberts Dailey passed away at Westminster Village, a retirement home in Muncie, Indiana.

J. Roberts Dailey was a leader of unparalleled reputation in public service. His tenure in the Indiana General Assembly where he served as Speaker of the House was marked by the consistent pursuit of principle and the interests of the people of Indiana.

Bob Dailey entered politics in 1952, serving 2 years on the Delaware County Council. He was a precinct committeeman between 1958 and 1978 and was Delaware County's GOP finance chairman between 1963 and 1978. He had been a delegate to every Republican state convention since 1954.

Dailey, a real estate agent, was first elected to the Legislature in 1976 before being elevated to Speaker in 1980.

In 1992, Dailey received one of Ball State University's highest honors, the Medal of Distinction for leadership and service to the state and university.

Six years later, he was named chairman of the Christian Coalition of Indiana, a state affiliate of the national organization that was a trailblazer in conservative Christian politics.

As he was to an entire generation of aspiring Hoosier leaders, Bob Dailey was my friend, a mentor and a true role model. He will be missed by our community and our state, but his example of integrity, faith and conservative leadership will continue to challenge and inspire future leaders for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire State of Indiana, I extend heartfelt sympathies over the loss of J. Roberts Dailey.

Indiana will never forget Speaker Dailey.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BURLINGTON ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city of Burlington Electric Department. What an incredible achievement!

One of the great experiences I had as Mayor was seeing, close up, how much it mattered to Burlington's citizens that we had public power, and not a for-profit corporation, delivering the electricity our city's households and businesses need. The results are clear. Burlington today has some of the lowest electric bills in the state. And that is no small matter when families are hard pressed by increasing gasoline and fuel oil prices, and the difficult economy that is faced by so many.

When the goal of a department is to provide the best quality service at the lowest possible cost, rather than huge profits and big CEO compensation packages, amazing things can happen. Through innovative and creative management and by utilizing aggressive energy efficiency measures, electricity use in Burlington is 1 percent below what it was in 1989—saving Burlington customers some \$6.7 million a year. Burlington is using less power at a time of economic growth—a remarkable achievement. Since 1995 average rates have decreased by 17 percent. Clearly there is something very right about the Burlington Electric Department which the rest of Vermont and America can learn from.

Several years ago I brought a number of the most innovative electric departments in the country together for a meeting in Washington. I was very proud that the BED showed itself to be one of the very best in the nation. Given the major energy crisis that our country now faces, I am confident that BED will continue to come forward with bold and innovative ideas to protect our rate-payers and our environment.

Whether it is in the normal operation of business, or dealing with power outages from an ice storm or a blizzard, the employees of Burlington Electric serve the people of Burlington with real dedication. Whatever the job is, they get it done.

To Mayor Clavelle, Barbara Grimes, BED's General Manager; to the Electric Commission; and the City Council; and most especially to the men and women who not only work for the Electric Department but make it work for all of Burlington:

Congratulations on BED's hundredth anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEGAN
ELIZABETH DAY, RECIPIENT OF
THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM
SCHOLARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance

of Megan Elizabeth Day, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Megan is a recent graduate of Bethesda Christian School. The Whitney Masonic Lodge #355 is matching her \$500 in Federal funds.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Megan Elizabeth Day for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING BRENT TRAUGOTT
SAVING FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brent Traugott Saving of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Brent will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Brent has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Brent has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brent Traugott Saving for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Saving in the United States Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO INTERPRINT, INC.
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
WILLIAM M. HINES, SR.

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the outstanding community service of Interprint, Inc., which for 20 years, under the direction of William M. Hines, Sr., has continually made social responsibility and commu-

nity involvement a hallmark of the company. Mr. Hines recognizes the importance of building and maintaining a community presence which has become a keystone of Interprint, Inc.'s success as well as the City of Pittsfield.

Recently, Mr. Hines has chaired a number of specialty events for the American Red Cross—Berkshire County Chapter (2003–2004), including the 2004 Fashion Show, which raised \$10,000 to help disaster victims of Berkshire County.

In addition, Interprint, Inc. has always been a pacesetter company for the Berkshire United Way Annual Fund Drive which supports the enhancement of the quality of life in our community through the support of non-profit human service organizations and their programs. Interprint also has supported the American Heart Association as a sponsor for the Heart Ball in 2003 and 2004 and the American Heart Walk in 2004. Mr. Hines was also involved with the Capital Fund Drive for Kid's Place in 1997 raising funds to provide an interdisciplinary, cooperative team approach to address the needs of children subjected to violence. The center provides a safe, caring, home-like atmosphere that coordinates the combined knowledge of law enforcement, social service, medical, prosecutorial, and mental health agencies to ensure an effective response to childhood trauma.

Finally, I commend Interprint, Inc. on its 20th Anniversary, September 15, 2005, for the many years of community service that it has contributed to Berkshire County. I look forward to the many years ahead that Interprint, Inc. will continue to be a productive and contributing member of the surrounding community.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES DELMAR
ELLIS

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Delmar Ellis, a marshal for the Brighton Colorado Police Force. While Night Marshal Ellis was making his rounds in downtown Brighton on March 6, 1908 at 2:20 a.m., he encountered three men. When he was ordered to throw up his hands and halt, Ellis refused and one of the three opened fire. Ellis, though hit, gallantly returned fire then made his way to a telephone office for help. In a short time, two local doctors arrived but Marshal Ellis's condition was assessed as grave and was placed on a train to Denver but died en-route at the young age of twenty-five.

The investigation of the event revealed that the three men were attempting to break into the United States Post office located in Brighton.

Marshal James Delmar Ellis died serving the people of Brighton. In May of 2005 his name was added to the Roll Call of Fallen Officers at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marshal Ellis and all of our nations' fallen officers by honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIAN
ROBERSON, RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOL-
ARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Brian Roberson, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Brian is a member at the Technology Center Boys and Girls Club. This organization also contributed the matching funds worth \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Brian Roberson for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING SHAWN PATRICK
BURT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shawn Patrick Burt of Kansas City, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Shawn will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Shawn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Shawn has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shawn Patrick Burt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Burt in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE 322ND MEDICAL
BATTALION OF THE 97TH INFAN-
TRY DIVISION IN WWII

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when we are humbled and saddened by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast, I would like to take a few minutes to salute and honor the men of the 322nd Medical Battalion of the 97th Infantry Division. They served during World War II and are meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on September 17, 2005 for a reunion.

After completing training in Texas, Louisiana, and Missouri, the 97th Infantry Division was sent to Camp San Luis Obispo, California to receive amphibious training in preparation for deployment to the Pacific for operations against the Japanese. In the fall of 1944, the Division was notified that it would be sent to the Far East in December. However, with the high number of American casualties during the Battle of the Bulge, the 97th was ordered to the European Theatre of Operations for the final assault on Nazi Germany.

They arrived in Europe in March of 1945 and participated in the reduction of the Ruhr pocket. The 97th captured Solingen and Düsseldorf as well as other small towns in Germany. Later, the 97th was transferred to Patton's 3rd Army where they participated in the liberation of Czechoslovakia. The 97th Infantry was credited with firing the last official shot in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II.

After the surrender of Germany, the 97th returned to the States and in September left for the Pacific where they had been scheduled to take part in the invasion of Japan before the Japanese formally surrendered on September 2, 1945. The 97th went on to perform occupation duty in Japan until its final deactivation in March of 1946.

These brave young men not only helped to finalize the end of the war against Nazi Germany but went on to begin the peace process in Japan. I salute them for a "job well done."

RECOGNIZING BILL STIGLITZ AS
THE 101ST PRESIDENT OF THE
INDEPENDENT INSURANCE
AGENTS & BROKERS OF AMER-
ICA

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. William G. Stiglitz III, on his selection as the 101st president of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, IIBA. Bill has been an important part of Louisville's business community for the past 35 years and I pause today to congratulate him on this honor.

Bill prepared for his professional career by attending Centre College, from which he grad-

uated in 1968. Upon completion of his studies, Bill served in the U.S. Army, including 14 months in Vietnam with the 35th Engineer Battalion. In 1970, Bill joined his uncle, English Miller, at the insurance firm of Miller & Scholtz. During Bill's career in Louisville, he has been a leader in his industry and within our community. In 1987, he served as the president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Kentucky. Bill has also served as president of the Leukemia Society of Kentucky. Bill and his wife Pat have two children, Garrett and Kate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bill on this honor. I wish him the best of luck during his term as president of the IIBA.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. "TED"
HERGET, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Charles "Ted" Herget, Jr., a Baltimore businessman and philanthropist who has served on the Villa Julie College Board of Trustees since 1975, and has chaired the Board since 2002. In his 30 years of service to Villa Julie, Ted Herget has been instrumental in helping build the college into a highly regarded institution of higher learning in the Baltimore area.

In those first years, Villa Julie was a young institution that awarded only associate degrees. Since then, its 400 students have grown to approximately 2,500 students, and Villa Julie now confers four-year degrees, specializing in career-focused and adult-accelerated programs.

As co-founder and principal of Asset Strategy Consultants, Ted Herget has used his financial acumen to benefit Villa Julie College. He was the first chairman of the finance committee and in that role stressed the need to invest the college's money for the future. He also helped to develop the benefit structure and retirement plans that are still in place.

In addition to his work with Villa Julie, Ted Herget has a long history of civic leadership. He has served on numerous boards in the Baltimore metropolitan area and is recognized as a committed and dedicated community leader.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the enormous impact that Ted Herget has had on the success and growth of Villa Julie College. Many people are responsible for Villa Julie's achievements, but Ted Herget certainly tops the list.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. Had I been able to, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 360, rollcall vote No. 454, and "yea" S.J. Res. 19, rollcall vote No. 455.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANTI-
PRICE GOUGING ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Anti-Price Gouging Act of 2005, legislation that makes price gouging during a time of a national disaster a Federal crime. I am joined by Representatives DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, JERROLD NADLER, MARTIN MEEHAN, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, BENNIE THOMPSON, WILLIAM JEFFERSON, ADAM SCHIFF, JOE CROWLEY, WILLIAM DELAHUNT, ZOE LOFGREN, GENE TAYLOR, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, DIANE WATSON, BOBBY SCOTT, ED CASE, BERNIE SANDERS, MIKE CAPUANO, DENNIS KUCINICH, BOB FILNER, DAN BOREN, JIM McDERMOTT, GEORGE MILLER, JOHN LARSON, AL GREEN, JULIA CARSON, CAROLYN KILPATRICK, CAROLYN MALONEY, EMANUEL CLEAVER, ANTHONY WEINER, BARBARA LEE, BETTY MCCOLLUM, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, JAY INSLEE, and JOSÉ SERRANO.

Every time a major disaster occurs, we are confronted with scarcity of resources that often results in exorbitant prices for necessary resources such as gas, food and water. While some adjustment to prices may be necessary, unconscionable increases in price are unfair and harmful to consumers, who, at a time of national disaster, are already dealing with significant personal losses. It is unconscionable for the same gasoline that sold for \$2.50 per gallon on one day, to be marked up to \$3.50 on the next day. Similarly, a hotel room that was promised at \$80 per night on the phone; should not be raised \$200 per night upon arrival. These instances of price gouging have been occurring throughout the country, even in areas far removed from the direct damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Currently, at least 13 States—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia—have laws that specifically address price gouging in the event of a declared emergency. Unfortunately, there is no Federal statute addressing the issue.

When we have unprecedented natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, and price gouging that harms consumers across the Nation, we need Federal law enforcement available to support the States. As a result, the Anti-Price Gouging Act of 2005 would make it a violation of the Antitrust Laws for a supplier to charge unconscionable prices for necessary goods or services once a state of emergency has been declared by the President.

This legislation is not only extremely important now, at a time of national disaster, but it is also mindful that we cannot sit around and wait for disaster to strike before putting in place mechanisms that will help consumers in their times of need. I hope the Congress moves quickly to enact the Anti-Price Gouging Act of 2005.

RECOGNITION OF PASTOR
LEONARD P. BUELOW

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize before this House Pastor Leonard P. Buelow in observance of his 50th year in active ministry. Pastor Buelow's service and commitment to his congregations over the last 50 years has been both admirable and inspirational. He continues to serve his parishioners with the same dedication and enthusiasm as he did when he was first ordained.

Pastor Buelow began his career in the Christian ministry by attending and graduating from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, IL, in 1954. He was ordained on September 11, 1955, and went on to serve the congregation of St. James Lutheran Church of Shawano, WI, until 1965. Then, from 1965 to 1992, Pastor Buelow led the congregation of the Redeemer Lutheran Church of Green Bay, WI. Following his service at Redeemer Lutheran, he went on to found Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church in Green Bay, WI, where he continues to serve as their full-time minister. During his tenure with these congregations, Pastor Buelow has earned the reputation of being a true leader of the church and a tireless servant of God.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Pastor Leonard P. Buelow for his years of dedicated service to the church and his congregation. His guidance and compassion will continue to be cherished for many years to come.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IM-
MEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM
THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRI-
CANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, my heart and my prayers go out to all those caught in the path of Hurricane Katrina and the conditions they are suffering in its wake. Katrina was a hurricane of biblical proportions that has left thousands of people without food, clean water, shelter and medicine, particularly those people stranded in New Orleans where conditions are absolutely unlivable and public safety is virtually nonexistent. They have waited for days hoping for at least some sort of information about when they might get to escape their ravaged city and where they will go next.

With the chaos and looting that has ensued in New Orleans, it is critical that our government get in there and provide the necessary relief—not tomorrow, not next week, but right now. People are dying on the streets; the President and the Federal Government cannot afford to waste another minute.

It is inexcusable that the President and his administration did not act more swiftly to provide the basic necessities of survival to the

victims, nor did they act swiftly to ensure the City's public safety. As the richest nation in the world and the world's only superpower, we ought to be ashamed. With so many troops abroad in Iraq attempting to secure a whole nation, it is inexcusable that we cannot secure one city on our own shores.

That is why I am pleased that Congress acted quickly today to pass legislation providing \$10.5 billion in emergency funds for the relief and recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The Supplemental Appropriations Act will deliver \$10 billion in emergency aid for FEMA and \$500 million for the Department of Defense.

However, this is only a down payment. FEMA is currently spending \$500 million a day and under this scenario, the \$10 billion for FEMA will provide only another 20 days as they continue to assess the needs of the devastated communities.

It could take months for families to find homes and establish some sort of normalcy in their day-to-day life, and I call on the President and the Federal Government to remain committed to helping people rebuild their lives.

Each of us has in some way been personally touched by this horrific tragedy. For my wife Dianne and I, it was waiting for our youngest son, Evan, to make his way to our house after escaping the disaster of New Orleans. We were further touched as we learned that a family member of a parishioner at the Church I pastor, St. James United Methodist, was given refuge by a kind elderly couple after being stranded in a home surrounded by water. Fortunately, the Coast Guard rescued them all on Sunday morning. All of us have a duty to reach out to those in greatest need.

Americans will stand strong together to help our brothers and sisters in their time of dire need, and the Kansas City area is no exception. Children's Mercy Hospital has already opened their doors to twenty-four sick children and their families flown in from New Orleans by the Missouri Air National Guard, and the Red Cross has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from Kansas Citians. The outpouring of support from across the country has been phenomenal, and I am confident that our citizens will remain resolute until the job is done.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IM-
MEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM
THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRI-
CANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, last Monday, August 29th, Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi as a Category 4 storm, with winds of over 140 miles per hour. We all know the aftermath of that terrible storm: thousands dead, more than a million refugees, billions of dollars in damage, and a major American city rendered uninhabitable. The greatest tragedy of all is that, for the most part, this could have been avoided.

The President told us that he didn't "think anyone anticipated the breach of the levees," a misinformed statement at best. New Orleans

is the only major American city below sea level, and the Federal Government was well aware of the flooding threat to the city in the event of a hurricane. Just last July, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted a five-day hurricane exercise simulating the effects that a powerful storm would have on New Orleans. During the apocalyptic simulation, 120 mile per hour wind gusts and 20 inches of rain combined to top the levees, forcing the evacuation of more than one million residents.

Yet despite the lessons learned from that exercise the Bush administration stunningly neglected to heed the threat.

The President slashed funding for the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project (SELA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project to control flooding in the New Orleans area, to \$10.4 million, one-sixth of what local officials had said they needed. Funding for Army Corps projects have been cut across the board for the last few years by this administration and this Congress, whose reckless tax-cutting, combined with funding cuts and National Guard deployments to Iraq, have sharply increased vulnerability to natural disaster in this country. It is worth noting that more than 7,000 soldiers from the Louisiana and Mississippi National Guard are stationed in Iraq, including more than 3,000 from the 256th Brigade Combat Team based in New Orleans.

Even as the hurricane was hitting land as a Category 4 storm, the administration failed to mobilize help. Dr. Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center, said that both Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and FEMA Director Mike Brown were made aware of the storm's potential in the days leading up to its landfall, yet it took until Friday, September 2nd, four days after the storm hit, for any meaningful National Guard presence to arrive to relieve the burden on local Guard units, bring about law and order, and ease suffering. The first 72 hours after a disaster are the most important in terms of saving lives, and this administration completely failed in that regard.

Sadly, the 200,000 or so people who did not evacuate the city in time were overwhelmingly those who were too poor, old, or sick to leave. It is they who have suffered the most from the gross Federal Government incompetence before, during, and after the storm.

HONORING WILLIAM THOMAS
"KETER" BETTS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. CONYERS and I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of one of the great artistic voices of our time, William Thomas "Keter" Betts of Silver Spring, Maryland. A legend in the world of jazz for over 50 years, Keter was not only a bassist of incomparable talent, but an original artist, devoted teacher, and wonderful friend. He passed away in Maryland on August 6, 2005 at the age of 77.

Keter Betts was born in 1928 in Port Chester, New York. He discovered music as a child when one day, while running an errand for his

mother, he encountered a parade and was so fascinated by the music that he followed it all over town. It was not long before he began practicing on a small drum, and eventually moved on to playing on a full set. However, in his late teens he tired of carrying his drum set up and down the stairs of his apartment building, so in 1946 he switched to bass.

When he was only 19, Keter landed his first professional gig, playing for thirteen weeks in Washington, DC with saxophonist Carmen Leggio. He toured the country from 1949 through 1956, working with jazz singer Dinah Washington during the latter five years of the tour. Keter then teamed up with Charlie Byrd and Woody Herman to tour Europe and South America, before joining Ella Fitzgerald for a short tour that was the beginning of the twenty-four-year working partnership the two would share.

Over the years Keter played with many more jazz greats, such as Count Basie, Cannonball Adderly, Nat Adderly, Stan Getz, Kenny Burrell and Louis Bellson, playing venues all over the world. He was a member of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Big Band and was inducted into the Washington Area Music Association Hall of Fame. And after playing on more than 100 recordings, Keter finally released his first solo album, *Bass, Buddies & Blues* in 1998, and soon followed it up with *Bass, Buddies, Blues Beauty Too*.

In addition to performing, Keter was a long-time instructor of music at Howard University in Washington, DC beginning in 1963. He also impacted his community as an educator through his commitment to instructing young people through various programs such as the Washington Performing Arts Society's *Concerts in Schools* and Prince George's County's *Arts Alive*.

Keter Betts is widely considered to be the most accomplished and highly respected bassist in jazz history. Keter's life and music impacted countless members of younger generations not only because of the excellence and originality he brought to his art, but because of his incredible wisdom, his insight, and his firm belief that every artist must strive to be unique and find his or her true voice.

Today Keter's family and friends will come together to celebrate his impact not only on the world of jazz, but on the innumerable lives he touched and artistic journeys he inspired. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California and the 14th Congressional District of Michigan, we salute and thank Keter Betts for his invaluable contributions to jazz music, our country and our world.

U.S. ARMY SPC. LAURO DELEON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Spc. Lauro DeLeon, who died one year ago while serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lauro joined the Army Reserves before graduating from Floresville (Texas) High School in 2003, seeing the military as a way of financing a college education. He then enrolled at Palo Alto College that fall to pursue

a degree in business, but soon learned he had been called up for active duty.

Lauro went to Baghdad as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2004. The Mojadi army was attacking the city, and Lauro's unit was stuck in camp for three days before making its way out of Baghdad.

During that summer of 2004, Lauro surprised his family with a return home as part of a two-week leave from the Army which he won in a lottery. Lauro, a good Christian man from a good Christian family, prayed that he would be granted the opportunity to go home to his family, and his number was the last one called.

Lauro then returned to Iraq to serve with the 644th Transportation Company. On September 8, 2004, the truck Lauro was driving went over an explosive device, killing Lauro and putting the soldier with him in critical condition.

While in Iraq, both Lauro and his mother, Grace Lopez, read a chapter a day from the Bible. She passed along a message that helped Lauro make it through the tough times: "Fear is not of God; whenever you start feeling fear, tell God to remove it." It is this faith that carried Lauro through the war, and it is this faith that continues to carry his family after his passing.

Along with all of our fallen servicemen and women, Lauro DeLeon has honored our nation by making the greatest sacrifice of all. It is the least we can do to offer these words of remembrance today. As always, our prayers remain with Lauro, his family, and all those representing our country in our Armed Forces.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the features of H.R. 6 that will make a material difference in the protection of groundwater are the provisions making key reforms to the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program. The lack of serious attention to leaking tanks has been one of the main causes of groundwater and drinking water contamination by fuel and fuel additives. I applaud our Subcommittee Chairman, PAUL GILLMOR, who authored the LUST provisions in H.R. 6 and that I have enthusiastically included in this legislation. In addition, I agree with and support his interpretation of these provisions, as outlined in his Extension of Remarks that appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on July 28, 2005, on pages H6964-H6966. There are two specific provisions that deserve special mention.

First, in order to avoid the creation of unfunded mandates, the reference to Section 9508(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code in the newly created section 9014(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act should be considered to mean Section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code in order to reflect changes made to Title XIII, Subtitle F, Section 1362. This Section of H.R. 6 creates a new Section 6430 at the end of Subchapter B of Chapter 65. It amends Section 9508(c) by striking the existing subsection 9508(c)(2) and renumbering sub-

section 9508(c)(1) as subsection 9508(c). As the chief author of this bill, it was never my intent to see LUST defunded and this instance should not be interpreted nor construed as nothing more than a drafting error since the historical construct and intent of the provisions in section 9014(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act are consistent with past versions addressing authorizations of appropriations under Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act. Should it be necessary, I intend to immediately pursue statutory changes necessary to ensure proper use of collected transportation fuel taxes in the LUST program under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Second, Section 1530 on Title XV addresses additional methods to protect groundwater, including state requirements on the use of secondarily contained underground storage tank systems or conversely requiring states to use installer and manufacturer requirements. If a state chooses secondary containment, then any new installation of an underground storage tank that is within 1,000 feet of community water system or potable water well must be secondarily contained. In addition, any tank or piping that is replaced on an underground storage tank that is within 1,000 feet of a community water system or potable water well must be secondarily contained. Repairs to an underground storage tank system, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), do not trigger any secondary containment requirements and gasoline dispensers must also be addressed as part of the secondary containment strategy. If, however, a state chooses installer and manufacturer certification, as well as financial responsibility requirements, this section requires tank installers and manufacturers to follow professional guidelines for tank products or comply with one of the new statutory requirements that are similar to subsections (d) and (e) of 40 CFR 280.20. In addition, this section requires installers and manufacturers to maintain evidence of financial assurance to help pay corrective action costs that are directly relatable to a faulty tank part or installation. The lone exception to the financial assurance requirement is where a tank owner or operator, who already maintains evidence of financial responsibility under Section 9003 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, is also the installer or manufacturer of the underground storage tank. I want to make clear that with respect to the financial responsibility option, the conference report references the existing financial responsibility authority contained in section 9003(d) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act that applies to owners and operators, and as such, it is the intent of this legislation that all of the authorities and flexibilities contained in 9003(d) apply to underground storage tank installers and manufacturers in the same way that they currently apply to owners and operators of underground storage tanks.

H.R. 6 also adds a new section 3022 to Title XXX of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. The new section states: "It is the sense of Congress that Federal agencies conducting assessments of risks to human health and the environment from energy technology, production, transport, transmission, distribution, storage, use, or conservation activities shall use sound and objective scientific practices in assessing such risks, shall consider the best available science (including peer reviewed studies), and shall include a description of the

weight of the scientific evidence concerning such risks.”

For too long, documents and studies have been produced that do not reflect science, but rather a given policy bias mixed with elements of science. These documents and studies are then paraded forward as if they are risk assessments. This sense of Congress specifically finds such an approach unacceptable. I want to note that use of the weight of the scientific evidence is a specific recommendation in the 1997 Final Report of the Presidential/Congressional Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. On page 4 of that report the Commission states: “A good risk management decision . . . is based on a careful analysis of the weight of scientific evidence that supports conclusions about a problem’s potential risks to human health and the environment.” On page 23 of that report the Commission states: “Making judgments about risk on the basis of scientific information is called ‘evaluating the weight of the evidence.’ . . . It is important that risk assessors respect the objective scientific basis of risk and procedures for making inferences in the absence of adequate data.” On page 38 of that report the Commission states: “Risk assessors and economists are responsible for providing decision-makers with the best technical information available or reasonably attainable, including evaluations of the weight of the evidence that supports different assumptions and conclusions.”

It is important the Federal agencies conform their risk assessment practices to these principles.

HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the disaster along our Gulf Coast has wrought heart-breaking devastation on a scale too staggering to comprehend. I rise to join my colleagues in extending deepest sympathies to all those who have been struck by this catastrophe. Our hearts go out to all those who are suffering.

First and foremost, we must provide effective and immediate relief to our neighbors who are the victims of this tragedy. Federal authorities must render all assistance necessary in this overwhelming national crisis.

Congress has already taken the needed steps to ensure that funds are available for assistance. This is only the beginning of relief, and when more is needed, we will provide whatever is required.

We in the San Francisco Bay Area know first hand the impact of natural disaster, and we stand ready to help. I am encouraged by the support being shown by people in the Bay Area. Emergency volunteers have been dispatched. Hundreds of survivors will be housed in San Francisco’s St. Mary’s Cathedral. California schools are opening their doors as well. In my district, Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont has offered to take in 50 displaced students. The California State Universities, the University of California at Berkeley, and Stanford are accepting others. Many people have given, and will continue to give, to established relief agencies at this critical time.

As the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, I also want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to our friends in the world community who have pledged to help. Secretary General Kofi Annan has acknowledged American generosity in helping others, and he has graciously offered the assistance of the United Nations in our time of need. The leaders of a broad array of countries have expressed their condolences and extended offers of aid.

All Americans can be proud of the hard and sometime heart-rending work being done by local, state and federal emergency workers now on the scene of the disaster. But it seemed that immediate emergency action arrived in slow motion last week when it was so desperately needed. Those who were watching the news reports, as well as those who were hurting in the midst of the devastation, were united in one question: Why did the rescue efforts take so long? Now other questions are beginning to arise. We must answer them in order to do better in the event of another emergency. Even the President indicates that the response to this one has been less than acceptable.

When the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was formed in 2002, I voiced concern about folding into it the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). After failing to adequately respond to Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Andrew in 1992, FEMA had reestablished itself as a singularly responsive federal agency by clearly defining its mission and aggressively pursuing it. It was not helpful to change its structure and culture only a few years later in order to fit into the massive and newly created Department.

I believe our primary purpose in establishing the DHS was to better protect the nation through better prevention and response to catastrophe. We have yet to demonstrate improved prevention, and in this case our response has been pathetically sluggish. Confusion and lack of leadership dominate our efforts. I call on President Bush to take swift action to relieve FEMA Director Michael Brown of his duties.

I also join with Ranking Members WAXMAN, OBERSTAR, and THOMPSON in requesting that the committees of jurisdiction, the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Homeland Security, conduct hearings on the questions raised in responding to Hurricane Katrina.

And finally, I advocate the establishment of a blue ribbon, non-partisan committee on the scope and with the clout of the 9–11 Commission to prepare a long-range and thorough investigation into this matter, in order to lay out the lessons learned. We need to find out what went wrong, what went right, and what we can do how we can do to brace for a future disaster. We need to ensure that a similar natural event, or even a major terrorist attack, is not made any worse by our own failure to respond with speed, efficiency, and real compassion rather than rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, let’s work together to help our neighbors and friends whose lives stood in the path of destruction. And let’s do a better job of shielding our nation against such events.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
CUBAN BOLLERO SINGER
IBRAHIM FERRER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of legendary Cuban musician Ibrahim Ferrer, who died Saturday August 6, after suffering multiple organ failure.

Ibrahim Ferrer was at the center of the Buena Vista Social Club, a phenomenon that brought long delayed international fame to a group of older Cuban musicians thanks to a Grammy-winning 1997 album produced by Ry Cooder and a subsequent film by Wim Wenders, both by that name. Besides offering American audiences a musician’s-eye view of Cuba, the film created a recognition of Mr. Ferrer as an unlikely musical icon.

Mr. Ferrer’s story is particularly inspiring to me because it speaks to the limitless possibilities of talent and chance. He was a gifted musician but of all the larger-than-life personalities that make up the Buena Vista Social Club, Ibrahim Ferrer seemed the least likely to emerge as an international superstar. Yet within three years of his first international tours with the Afro-Cuban All Stars outside of Cuba in 1996, Mr. Ferrer was filling the world’s great venues and receiving rapturous ovations from audiences for whom he had become the embodiment—the heart and soul—of the multi-million-selling Buena Vista phenomenon.

Mr. Ferrer, a bolero singer who was compared to Nat King Cole, was born in Santiago in eastern Cuba on February 20, 1927, and began singing professionally in 1941. In the 1950s, he was an established singer who performed with well-known Cuban bands, including that of the legendary Benny More. But sadly, Ferrer was a forgotten name by the mid-1990s, supplementing a meager state pension by shining shoes. He was lifted from obscurity by the 1997 Buena Vista Social Club recording brought together by Texas guitarist Ry Cooder that shot a group of vintage Cuban musicians to international fame and an unexpected second career.

Mr. Ferrer was a man who was full of life and energy. Even in his seventies he could still salsa dance with the best of them. He was a musical powerhouse and an animated figure that clearly enjoyed performing Cuba’s traditional “son” music of the 1940s and 1950s for new generations of fans.

I extend my condolences to his lovely wife and six children. Mr. Ferrer and his music are truly an inspiration to both Cubans and people throughout the world. His life and music are a testament to the vibrancy and resilience of Cuban people.

Creating some of Cuba’s most rhythmic and dynamic music, Mr. Ferrer accomplished an enormous feat because despite the constraints of the U.S. embargo, his music was able to break through and Americans responded to it with overwhelming enthusiasm. His life legacy as a musician demonstrate the kind of beauty and musical genius that can come out of a relationship with Cuba and it is my hope that the failed U.S. embargo against Cuba will be lifted soon to permit the enrichment of an enhanced cultural exchange to the benefit of the people

of Cuba and the U.S. Mr. Ferrer paved the way for generations of Cuban singers to come and it is my hope that their music will continue to reach the hearts of Americans and people throughout the world.

I would like to submit for the RECORD an obituary from the August 8th edition of the New York Times.

[From the New York Times, August 8, 2005]

IBRAHIM FERRER, 78, CUBAN SINGER IN
"BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB," DIES
(By Ben Ratliff)

Ibrahim Ferrer, the Cuban singer whose life included one of popular music's most triumphant second acts, died on Saturday in Havana. He was 78. The cause was multiple organ failure, his manager, Carmen Romero, announced.

Mr. Ferrer was at the center of the Buena Vista Social Club, a phenomenon that brought long-delayed international fame to a group of older Cuban musicians thanks to a Grammy-winning 1997 album produced by Ry Cooder and a subsequent film by Wim Wenders, both by that name. Besides offering American audiences a musician's-eye view of Cuba, the film set up Mr. Ferrer as a particularly sympathetic figure—tall, distinguished and lively, an excellent bolero singer who used space and silence in his relaxed elegant delivery to increase the drama, a man who had been rolled over by history and was now simply trying to enjoy an absurdly lucky situation.

At the time that he was enticed out of retirement to make the album, Mr. Ferrer was living on a small state pension and shining shoes in Havana for extra money.

He was not interested in recording anymore; he had retired from singing in 1991.

"An angel came and picked me up and said, 'Chico, come and do this record,' "he said in 1998. "I didn't want to do it, because I had given up on music."

Born in 1927 at a social club dance in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba—his mother went into labor on a night out—Mr. Ferrer's first professional involvement with music came at age 13, a year after he became an orphan, when he joined a band, Los Jóvenes del Son.

Later he sang with groups that included Conjunto Sorpresa, the Orquesta Chapin Chovén (with which he had a local hit, "El Platanal de Bartolo," in 1955) and the Beny Moré orchestra, with which he was a background vocalist; in 1953 he began working with Pacho Alonso's band, Maravilla de Beltrán, in Santiago. The band later moved from Santiago to Havana and called itself Los Bocucos.

For most of his career Mr. Ferrer generally sang up-tempo numbers, guarachas and sones, not the slow romantic boleros, even though he loved them. But his chance finally came on "The Buena Vista Social Club," when Mr. Cooder and Juan de Marcos González, the album's musical director, persuaded him to sing songs like "Dos Gardenias," which he had learned decades before when singing with Moré.

In 1998, the Cuban Egrem label released "Tierra Caliente," an album of older songs he had made with Los Bocucos. In 1999 the British World Circuit label (with Nonesuch in the United States) released Mr. Ferrer's first solo album, and in 2003 his second, "Buenos Hermanos"; both were produced by Mr. Cooder. In "Buenos Hermanos" Mr. Cooder took more artistic liberties, stirring the very un-Cuban accordion and the gospel singing group the Blind Boys of Alabama into the mix.

Though by this time he was in his 70's, Mr. Ferrer won a Latin Grammy for Best New Artist in 2000. "Buenos Hermanos" won a

Grammy for Best Traditional Tropical Latin Album of 2003, but Mr. Ferrer was denied a visa to enter the United States for the awards ceremony last year.

His last performance in New York was in April 2003. He was on a European tour in the week leading up to his death.

Mr. Ferrer is survived by his wife, Caridad Díaz, 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, Ms. Romero said.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN LORENZO HOMES ASSOCIATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 10, 2005, the San Lorenzo Homes Association in San Lorenzo, California will celebrate 60 years as one of the oldest homeowners' associations in the United States.

During World War II, thousands came to the San Francisco Bay Area to work in the shipyards. In response to the need for housing, David D. Bohannon purchased rich farmland south of the San Lorenzo Creek where abundant fruit and vegetable crops were grown.

On May 18, 1944, builders broke ground on the first home in the Village tracts, which launched the wartime construction of the planned community. Bohannon applied a mass production method, the reverse of the normal prefab process, by moving the factory to the housing site. Each worker was trained to do a single part of the job. The assembled houses rolled off the line at the rate of one every seven hours.

The first houses had a "war worker's room" with a separate entrance to help meet the housing shortage. The 1945 three-bedroom homes were priced at \$5,950. Some rented for \$55 per month. With the slogan "Every Lot a Garden Spot" and In-Door-Outdoor Living, San Lorenzo Village grew at the rate of 1,329 houses per project.

Land was set aside for schools, churches, stores, parks, restaurants, a movie theater and the Nimtez Freeway, which was built in 1953. The construction headquarters was turned into a playground, community hall and the San Lorenzo Homeowners' Association offices.

The Association is controlled by a board of directors elected annually on staggered terms of three years each. The first meeting was held on April 5, 1945. After a few months, with the number of homes increasing so rapidly, it became apparent that it was necessary to have paid employees to devote their full time to Homes' Association work.

Through the years, the Association, with its volunteer Board of Directors and professional management, has been successful in ensuring the appearance, safety, and financial accountability of San Lorenzo Village.

Since 1945, San Lorenzo Village has grown from its original 1,329 homes to 5,686. The value of San Lorenzo Village homes has increased over eight thousand percent over the past sixty years.

I have a personal connection to the San Lorenzo Homes Association. My wife, Deborah Roderick Stark, was born in San Lorenzo and her parents, Frank and Mary Roderick, are long-time residents and members of the Association.

On behalf of the Roderick and Stark families, I applaud the exemplary contributions of the San Lorenzo Homes Association. The Association has demonstrated its leadership to maintain the integrity of this planned community and its commitment to quality service delivery to meet the needs of Village residents.

IN CELEBRATION OF 43 YEARS OF JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions that Jamaican Americans have made to our society and to join with them in celebrating their 43rd anniversary of independent rule on August 6, 2005.

Jamaicans have been immigrating to the United States for centuries and have undeniably left their mark on cities throughout our Nation. Their contributions can be seen at the center of our neighborhoods and industries, everywhere from New York to California. They are skilled business people, engineers, doctors, lawyers, and have produced some of our Nation's greatest leaders including former Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, and basketball star Patrick Ewing.

Despite the many challenges that this group has faced both in Jamaica and the U.S. they continue to hold fast to the Jamaican spirit of perseverance and continue in an extraordinary way to defy the odds. Theirs is a history of an effort that while marked with a host of successes and some failures, just like all nations, has shown that Jamaica is in a much better position today than when it became the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to assume the responsibility of nationhood.

Jamaica's record has proven that a relatively small but powerful nation can take charge of its own affairs and be a vital and vibrant member of the international community. Instead of tearing itself apart as other developing and developed nations have done, Jamaica and Jamaicans have held firm through thick and thin.

Having earned its place among the best-known developing countries at the United Nations, whether in international diplomacy, culture or excellence in sports Jamaica has been able to move far forward. Today, its people enjoy some of the longest life spans in the Western Hemisphere, about 74 years, poverty has dropped dramatically in recent years, educational opportunities continue to escalate, demonstrating the nation's commitment to invest in its people's future.

Jamaica has come so very far in the last 43 years and I look forward to its continued growth and prosperity in the future. Jamaica and Jamaicans will always hold a special place in my heart. It is impossible to imagine New York or Harlem without the contributions of Jamaicans. They are an ever-present and important part of our community from whom a great deal of our Nation's diversity is derived.

I would like to submit the following statement from Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to commemorate this historic occasion.

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM THE MOST
HON. P.J. PATTERSON, ON, PC, QC, MP
PRIME MINISTER

AUGUST 6, 2005

My Fellow Jamaicans:

Every year at this time we pause to reflect on the progress we have made as a people in this great country we call home. In our National Anthem, we ask for the blessings and guidance of the Eternal Father on this land.

We know so well that God helps those who help themselves, but that none but ourselves can free our minds. We realize that it is by our own efforts we can rid ourselves not only from the obstacles of the past, but also dissipate the inertia that would prevent us from overcoming present difficulties. We have to create our own path to the future of which we dream—the future which we would want our children and their children to inherit.

More and more we have come to appreciate that Independence is not simply a single event that took place in August 1962 but a process which allows us to build a nation for ourselves.

Our Founding Fathers based the pursuit of Independence on the firm conviction that we can be the creators of our own destiny. In this changed, and still rapidly changing world of this twenty-first century, it becomes even more urgent that we hold on to that conviction.

We are, after all, a people of proven grit and resilience whether we reside at home or abroad. We must use these attributes to creatively explore our potential and the opportunities that exist for economic, social and spiritual growth and development. To do otherwise, is a defiance of commonsense and a devaluation of the gift of life we have been given.

Fellow Jamaicans:

You have a right to expect from your leaders and the society at large: proper healthcare; affordable housing; a sound education that can facilitate and ease the journey from childhood to adulthood.

You are right to expect opportunities for gainful employment which is sustained and adequate to meet the vicissitudes of life.

And it is right that you should want to have the assurance of individual safety and collective security since all such rights herald the great freedoms from hunger, from ignorance, from disease and from fear.

But none of these can be achieved without the strategic alliances we must make between each other with all the caring, trust and compassion that a civilized society demands of all who inhabit it.

Forty three years in the life of a nation is short compared to the four and more centuries of degradation and deprivation. Through the struggles, the wisdom, foresight and example of our Founding Fathers, we have developed, and continue to develop, even greater self-esteem and self-confidence.

We have seen over the years that, despite the challenges and inherited disadvantages, we are not only fit to rule ourselves but also able to make a remarkable contribution on the regional and international stage.

In today's competitive global economy comparative advantage rests on intellectual skills and the mastery of technology. It is for this reason, that I have been stressing the importance of investing in our human resources—in ourselves—through education.

Today, education is the most effective means of shaping values, attitudes, behaviours and skills. Education is the key driver of economic transformation. It is our solemn responsibility to equip the future generation with the thinking skills that will assure their individual growth and development and the creation of a habitable society.

It is for this reason, that I have been stressing the importance of investing in our

human resources—in our young students and adults—through education and training.

To do so, we are harnessing the resources to create an education system that is viable and relevant in the global marketplace.

The challenge is immense!

It is indeed a challenge for all Jamaicans: civil society; our private sector; the Church; the family in whatever form; our energetic and talented youth population; our workers and their trade unions; and, of course, our elected representatives.

Let us view ourselves as custodians of our nation's resources which we must invest in a broader purpose—the betterment of all our people.

This is a time for both celebration and renewal.

On this 43rd anniversary of our Independence, I once again summon every Jamaican in town or country, at home or overseas, to re-commit yourselves to giving to this our beloved country the loyalty, caring, dedication it so richly deserves from us all.

I wish everyone a peaceful and reflective Independence.

May God bless us all and bless Jamaica, this beautiful land we love.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROSALIE S. OBARA

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect, admiration and much sorrow that I rise today to remember the life of Rosalie S. Obara. Rosalie was elected to the office of New Castle County Clerk of the Peace for a record seven terms, serving from 1969 to 1996. She loved life and took great pleasure in giving back to the community that brought her so much happiness. She was also indispensable to my own career, lending a helping hand in many elections.

In the 1930's, Rosalie moved to Delaware, where she would raise four kids with her husband Frank J. Obara, a former City Council President. During her seven terms as Clerk of the Peace, she would perform over 15,400 marriages.

In addition to her professional success, Rosalie left an indelible mark on her community. She was the co-founder and one-time president of the Americans of Polish Descent Cultural Society, as well as an officer with the Council of Polish Societies and Clubs of Delaware. Rosalie was also very active in her church, St. Hedwig, and served the Republican Party as a member of the State Committee and the New Castle County Republican Women's Club.

During her lifetime, Rosalie was the recipient of numerous honors, including the Order of the First State, the highest honor given by the State of Delaware. During the Eisenhower administration, she joined Mamie Eisenhower for tea in the White House. Rosalie will be remembered for her class and dignity.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to point to a 1996 quote from Rosalie that sums up her American Dream story, "I'm the daughter of immigrants. I survived the Depression. I had a limited education, but I made something of myself . . . I am glad I was able to help others." Rosalie Obara can rest in peace knowing that she was always able to help others with grace and elegance.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure this is politically incorrect, but watching the President fly into the disaster area left by Hurricane Katrina and declare that the director of FEMA has done a good job should cause everyone of us to scream out "the President has no clue." As has become painfully obvious, the Bush administration's response to this fearsome natural disaster has been woefully late and utterly inadequate.

Mr. Speaker, this is not meant to be a partisan attack; it's important to remember that not all criticism of the President is for political advantage. Indeed one of the principal duties of the Congress, and one we have been shamefully inattentive to, is oversight of the executive branch and its utilization of taxpayer resources. And if there is no criticism of the disastrous response to this disaster, then we have no right to expect that this administration, or some later administration, will not similarly mishandle the future challenges our Nation is sure to face.

Americans rightfully should have expected that by now, every region of this country, every metropolitan area, every great city, would have a comprehensive disaster response and evacuation plan. It should not require a disaster or a cataclysm, or worse, a terrorist attack, nor should it be a mystery, or an improvisational effort to figure out how to preserve hospital and medical services, to know which facilities will be needed to provide emergency shelters, or to determine how food, water, medicine, blankets and cots and other essentials are going to be sent to designated distribution sites in the fastest, most efficient way.

It should be obvious, even to those who have habitually failed or refused to see the obvious, that once again, there is no plan. By diffidence and incompetence the Bush administration has lost the battle for New Orleans. We in this House need to ensure that we don't lose the battle for the survival of America.

Mr. Speaker, I never take joy in publicly criticizing my President, but questions about the failure of his leadership in the planning and implementation of rescue efforts—whether now or when the dust settles—have to be asked. If a country knows they're going to be attacked, whether by Mother Nature or by terrorists, they must be prepared. It is all too apparent that the federal government was not prepared for Hurricane Katrina. Sufficient troops and ample disaster relief supplies should have been on the ground in advance of the storm, and there should have been clear plans for additional resources to be brought in within a reasonable amount of time.

Moreover, in light of the vast scale of the devastation, and the immediacy of need, where was the innovative spirit and can-do attitude we Americans are so rightly famous for? Why not contract with Greyhound and America's other bus companies and use them to

make short runs to nearby safe railroad terminals so hurricane survivors could have been more quickly relocated to safer out-lying areas on trains? Couldn't a system like this have transported more people to safe ground quicker? Wasn't there some way to free up the too few school buses which were forced to drive to cities far away and make return trips with nobody on board? Couldn't those same vehicles have been used to bring in bottled water, food, emergency supplies and medicine?

Mr. Speaker, what on earth has the Federal Government been doing since 9/11 to prepare for a disaster striking a major American city? With all the Federal agencies, the massive homeland security bureaucracy, and all the many czars, bosses and chiefs, there is still no national or regional master

plan to evacuate people, to rapidly bring in relief and to adequately deal with a large scale emergency of this nature. Where has all the money and effort gone? What have the taxpayers got for their hard earned money? All the money for Homeland Security, what has it bought us? Where is the coordination? Where is the Federal-State-local partnership? Have we learned nothing about disaster response from 9/11?

Is there a plan in place for how to deal with the profiteers when the resettling and rebuilding begins? Is there a plan to address the spike in oil prices? Do we even have a system to help our fellow Americans in finding friends and loved ones? Is our government even capable of putting together a list of the lost, missing, found and deceased?

Of course, right now, the Government must devote its energy to rescue efforts and to beginning the recovery of the affected region. And, once again, we cannot adequately thank all those first responders and rescue workers who have once again shown the kind of steadfast bravery that makes us proud to be Americans. We will never be able to repay their heroism adequately or thank them for all the lives they've already saved.

But as the crisis passes, Mr. Speaker, we cannot and we must not ignore how the Federal Government failed to protect the health and safety of its citizens. If the measure of a great nation is how it deals with its weakest and neediest citizens, then Hurricane Katrina has revealed some very unpleasant truths. How we deal with those truths will show what kind of nation we really are.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 12

12 noon

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., of Maryland, to be Chief Justice of the United States.

SR-325

SEPTEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., of Maryland, to be Chief Justice of the United States.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the financial services industry's responsibilities and role in preventing identity theft

and protecting sensitive financial information.

SD-538

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John R. Fisher, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Juliet JoAnn McKenna, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Colleen Duffy Kiko, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Mary M. Rose, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., of Maryland, to be Chief Justice of the United States.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 15

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., of Maryland, to be Chief Justice of the United States.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

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SEPTEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Forest and Rangeland Research Program of the USDA Forest Service.

SR-328A

SEPTEMBER 28

2:30 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian housing.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 29

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine proposed Duck Valley Reservation, Shoshone Paiute Tribes, Water Rights Settlement.

SR-485

CANCELLATIONS

SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine able danger and intelligence information sharing.

SD-226

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine prisoner re-entry.

SD-226